

GOLF 50  
Home and away day beats fixture congestion

# THE TIMES

35P

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## McALPINE MEMOIRS

The humiliation of Cecil Parkinson  
PAGE 17



## THE REAL CLOTHES SHOW

Iain R. Webb on the return of beautiful basic fashions  
PAGE 16



## OVER THE BIG TOP

Philippe Decoufle, ringmaster of the circus-theatre  
ARTS, P33



## NIGELLA LAWSON

Are you paying your cleaner in guilt?  
PAGE 17



Friend and foe under bombardment

## Furore over outburst by right-winger

By JAMES LANDALE, ANDREW PIERCE, ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Conservative Party was embarrassed last night when one of its MPs was heard heaping personal abuse on Virginia Bottomley and his Labour opponent as part of an attack on the "dreadful" women in politics.

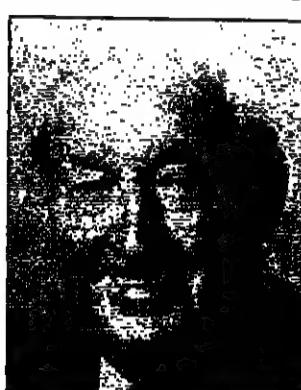
David Evans, the colourful rightwing MP for Welwyn Hatfield, described the Heritage Secretary as "dead from the neck upwards" and said that she was in the Cabinet purely because she was a woman. He went on to deride Melanie Johnson, the Labour candidate in his constituency, saying that she lived with her boyfriend and "three bastard children" and had never done a proper job.

Then for good measure, he said that he did not like John Major, who was "vindictive and not forgiving".

Most of the women at Westminster were "ordinary" and were promoted simply because it looked "politically good", Mr Evans said. That meant some "dreadful" women were in positions of authority.

Mr Evans, who is a member of the Conservative 1922 Committee, executive, made the remarks to sixth-formers during a current affairs lesson at Stanborough College, Welwyn Garden City, last Thursday. He gave permission for his answers to be tape-recorded, and a cassette found its way to Anglia Television, who broadcast it last night.

Mr Evans complained later that he had been betrayed over what had been a "light-hearted interview", but he was



Evans: "betrayed over light-hearted interview"

nevertheless unrepentant when challenged by reporters. He said: "I don't care what people make of it. I often speak to school children and their teacher, but I see the comments as private. I don't expect them to go blurring everything out to you lot."

"I make no apologies because I have nothing to apologise for. The point is that if you have children out of wedlock, they are bastards and there's no getting away from that." He said later, however, that he had made an apology to Mrs Bottomley and claimed she had accepted it.

But Tory strategists voiced dismay, saying that such a controversy was the last thing they needed. "Nothing David Evans has ever said has merited front-page news until now. It could not be worse," one campaigner said.

Central Office held urgent talks with Downing Street and they agreed to create an official wall of silence in the

hope that the story would run out of steam. Both issued a curt "no comment".

Mr Evans said in his interview: "So then women get promoted, like Virginia Bottomley, who's dead from the neck upwards, right? I mean, she has been in the Cabinet simply because she is a woman." But he praised Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, as a "different kettle of fish" who would have "made it in any forum".

He also called for the return of capital punishment, suggested that rapists should be castrated, questioned the innocence of the Bridgewater Three and the Birmingham Six, and referred to "some black bastard" raping a girl outside her school.

Of Ms Johnson he said: "She is single, lives with her boyfriend, three bastard children, lives in Cambridge, never done a proper job."

Miss Johnson, 42, was selected from a women-only shortlist before the practice was banned, but she has been an Ofsted inspector for four years after being an NHS manager and is also a magistrate. She and her partner of 18 years have three children, twin daughters aged 12 and a son of ten.

Ms Johnson, who has a good chance of wiping out Mr Evans's 8,000 majority in May, said last night: "I am used to the hurly burly of politics but David Evans has descended to the gutter. I am standing for election not to continue on page 2, col 4



Melanie Johnson: "I am horrified that David Evans could stoop so low"

## It's May Day: Major all but confirms election date

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Prime Minister paved the way for a six-week general election campaign yesterday when he all but confirmed that it would take place on May 1.

John Major told a BBC phone-in programme that it was a "fair expectation" that the election would be that day, and senior Conservative sources later said that there was no longer any doubt about the timing.

By the time Mr Major addresses the Conservative Central Council in Bath on Saturday week, it will be too late to announce the only other realistic option for polling day - April 10. But Mr Major still intends to keep the political world guessing over when he will formally announce the dissolution of Parliament.

Yesterday, as the arrival in Westminster of the Wirral by-election victor Ben Chapman pushed the Government into a minority, Tony Blair urged Mr Major to call the election now.

Tory chiefs debating the timing have earmarked five possible dates for the announcement. Some close colleagues want Mr Major to avoid naming the day until after the central council weekend - and even to wait until Easter. They argue that if Mr Major's central council speech were treated as part of the formal campaign, Mr Blair and Paddy Ashdown would also receive lengthy coverage in the day's news bulletins. As soon as an election is announced, broadcasters have a duty to give the parties equal treatment.

Other ministers are arguing that because the election date will be known by the end of next week, Mr Major might as well get the announcement out of the way and use the Bath

speech to set the ball rolling.

But a senior Tory strategist said: "The Prime Minister believes that the longer he has to get at Labour the better. This is the way he will do it."

Whatever happens, it is accepted that the Bath gathering will mark the launching of the campaign. The party leaders would not start their travelling roadshows until the dissolution, but all the other electioneering activities would be under way.

During his appearance on a Radio 5 Live phone-in, Mr Major attributed Labour's

## Labour ditches free eye test plan

Labour has dropped its commitment to restore free eye-sight tests and dental check-ups, it emerged last night.

Party aides said the changes would be reviewed after the general election but denied that Labour had any intention of abolishing them. Page 2

strong lead in the polls to the Tories long period in power. He said: "The greatest difficulty we have at the moment is not with the state of the country, which is patently growing - you can see that with the growth figures in the economy and with the dramatic fall in unemployment."

"All of that is very welcome. But when you have been in government for 18 years you are fighting in a sense a phantom enemy, and I think that is a bigger problem for us than any other."

Matthew Parris, page 2  
Peter Barnard, page 9  
Leading article, page 19

## Lego galore in West Country

Youngsters were flocking to beaches in south Devon and Cornwall yesterday as thousands of Lego bricks were washed up.

The bricks had been part of a consignment on its way from Lego headquarters in Denmark to America. The ship carrying them was damaged in storms last month.

## Dunblane parents find self-support

As the first anniversary of the Dunblane shootings approaches, the parents of the 16 children who died say they have learnt to cope with their grief through meeting every week to laugh and cry together. One said: "A lot of people say that the Thursday meetings are the highlight of their week."

Page 4

## Troops and police gain upper hand in Albania

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TROOPS and police appeared to be winning the battle to impose order in much of Albania yesterday, though armed gangs were still roaming the south. Trifun Shehu, the Foreign Minister, said the risk of civil war had hugely diminished.

Army bases in Vlore and Himara were looted, however, as rebels continued to rampage through the main towns. A four-year-old was killed by a stray bullet.

President Berisha yesterday sacked General Shtemë Kosova, his chief of staff, accusing him of failing to defend the army barracks. He was replaced by General Adem Copani, a presidential military adviser. The authorities said more than 1,500 weapons had been looted by rioters over the weekend.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday lifted the blanket ban on reporting from Albania, telling the European Broadcasting Union that it could resume satellite transmission of foreign television reports. The restrictions on the domestic press remained in force.

Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General, yesterday ruled out military intervention in Albania.

New army chief, page 14

## Football stars sentenced to await retrial decision

By LIN JENKINS AND ADRIAN LEE

THREE footballers accused of match fixing were facing an agonising wait last night to see whether they must face a fresh trial after a jury failed to reach a verdict.

Grubbeelaar and Hans Segers were said by their lawyers to be extremely disappointed after the jury remained deadlocked despite almost 11 hours of deliberation. With John Fashanu they walked from Winchester Crown Court, dazed after hours of waiting.

The jury of eight men and three women said at the end of the seven-week trial that they could not reach majority decisions on any of the charges against any defendant.

Amid uproar in the court, the judge, Mr Justice Tuckey, was told that the case which, with its surrounding investigations, is estimated to have cost £10 million so far, was likely to be retried as soon as possible.

In the dock the former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper Mr Grubbeelaar, the Dutch-born former Wimbledon player Mr Segers, Mr Fashanu, who is better known as a television presenter nowadays, and their alleged go-between, Heng Suan Lim, glanced at each other with obvious despondency.

The four men looked up to the public gallery where their families were sitting as David Calvert Smith for the prosecution

immediately announced: "It is the Crown's current intention to seek a retrial."

He will now discuss with the Attorney-General a new date and possibly a new venue which the Crown Prosecution Service said last night should be announced within a week, if there is to be a new trial.

The judge brought a smile from the defendants as he conceded that normal procedure dictates that he might have to "substitute" himself from any new hearing. He asked that things should start moving as soon as possible because the events behind the case had happened in November 1994.

As the four accused walked from the dock facing their families and solicitors said was "months more worry". Mr Grubbeelaar did

manage a joke. He turned to a policeman: "Perhaps we should have decided this on penalties, but the trouble is we would have two goalkeepers."

His mother Beryl was less jovial. "I am devastated, naturally. It is disgraceful that they could not reach a verdict."

The end came after the jury sent a note to the judge at 3.43pm saying they could not agree. They filed back into court after ten hours and 59 minutes of deliberation and were asked by the judge whether, if they were given more time, there was any reasonable chance of their reaching majority verdicts on any of the defendants.

The foreman replied: "We don't believe so, my Lord." Asked if they had had enough time, the foreman replied: "Yes, my Lord." The judge said: "I think that's it" and discharged them with his thanks.

Legal sources said last night that the trial had cost £1.5 million, but that the investigation had cost nearer £10 million. A separate inquiry by the Football Association into the players' behaviour will have to wait until the outcome of any future trial.

In the meantime, Mr Segers and Mr Grubbeelaar will continue to play for their clubs, Woking and Plymouth Argyle. Continued on page 2, col 6

Rob Hughes, page 48

## Woman stabbed in head on train

By JOANNA BALE AND RICHARD DUCE

A WOMAN was in a critical condition in hospital last night after being stabbed in the head on a train in an apparently motiveless attack.

Alison Kennedy, 27, was stabbed with a commando knife as she sat alone in a carriage on the 8.46pm Waterloo to Guildford service as it approached Clondan in Surrey on Monday night. The six-inch blade penetrated her skull behind an eye, piercing her brain.

After hearing her screams, a passenger in another carriage found Ms Kennedy still conscious with the knife embedded in her head.

Ms Kennedy, who had been travelling from her home in Belfast to visit her sister in Guildford, remained conscious as she was taken to the Royal Surrey Hospital at Guildford. She was later transferred to the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London where she underwent emergency brain surgery.

Members of her family were at her bedside yesterday. Her condition was said to be "critical but stable".

A youth aged 17, of no fixed address, was last night charged with attempted murder.

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SPORT 43-46, 48  
STYLE 16  
MEDIA & MARKETING 22, 23



# Relaxed leading man awaits final curtain

SOMETHING had changed in John Major's manner at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. He was not dejected, as he had seemed last Thursday before the votes at Wirral South were counted. But neither was he geed up and punching his way out of a corner, as he can surprise us by doing.

He was simply relaxed. Almost aimless, at times. The Prime Minister rambled his way through a series of unlightening answers to low-grade questions, more than once losing his grammatical thread. He was going through the motions.

Though it must have been one of the last Question Times for this Parliament and Government, the session was

curiously lacking in tension. Only on the first question did hackles rise. It came from Nicholas Budgen (C), the man who succeeded Enoch Powell as MP for Wolverhampton SW. Mr Budgen declared that "strict control of immigration" was the key to good race relations and that Labour planned to relax this control. He invited Mr Major to comment.

Briefly, the mood turned ugly. A group of Labour backbenchers shouted with real fury at Budgen: "Desperate! Disgraceful!" When the Prime Minister rose there was a sudden and total hush. What would he say?

Major, speaking steadily and calmly, said he was not going to lend his voice to



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

anything that imperilled improving race relations. There was a moment of silence as he sat down.

The tone was fastidious, decent and proper, though it was not immediately clear to me that Mr Major's answer was intended to slap Nicholas Budgen down. But it may well have been and that is how MPs took it. Rising next, Tony Blair remarked, generously: "I think the Prime Minister deserves credit for that answer."

The remaining questions and answers failed to match the stature of this short inter-

lude. The Labour leader repeated his litany about "20,000 fewer nurses, 50,000 more managers" in the NHS. In a faintly weary riposte, the PM complained that "for the last five years we have had nothing but opposition from the ... then reflected (perhaps) that ... nothing but opposition from the Opposition" would invite the response "Well they would, wouldn't they?"

"Nothing but opposition from the ... Labour Party," he continued. Phew!

Blair tried to goad Major

into commenting on his Health Secretary's recent excursion into the single currency debate, but Major was not goaded.

Stephen Dorrell had been "an outstanding Health Secretary", he said limply, failing to summon enough enthusiasm for Dorrell seriously to dent the latter's hopes of becoming party leader.

Labour's David Winnick (Walsall N) — one of those grat-like political irritants who frontbenches keep swatting but never quite squash — bit Mr Major on the ear with a question about the funding of the Tory party. Major, looking bored, directed his answer to the funding of Mr Blair's office.

Eric Illsley (Barnsley Cen-

tral) quoted to the Prime Minister the opinion of Lord Tebbit on the Deputy Prime Minister, sitting beside him. Michael Heseltine was "tasteless, lucky ... and self-centred". Mr Heseltine lounged back on his bench looking rather flattered.

Earlier, I had watched the Environment Secretary, the civilised John Gummer, answering what was almost certainly the final session of Environment Questions before the election. For you and me, it was simply another Tuesday, another Environment Questions.

For Mr Gummer, 57, the bitter-sweet sensation of standing, perhaps for the last time in his career, at a government dispatch box.

## Labour abandons pledge to restore free eyesight tests

BY JILL SHERMAN AND JEREMY LAURANCE

LABOUR has dropped its commitment to restore free eyesight tests and dental check-ups, it emerged last night.

Party aides said the charges would be reviewed after the general election but denied that Labour had any intention of abolishing them. "We have no plans whatsoever to restore free eyesight tests and dental checks," said a spokesman for Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary.

The party was forced into clarifying its position after Tory accusations that Labour was committed to restoring the free checks, which the Tories claimed would cost £216 million. Although Labour has been silent on the issue over the past few years, Tory researchers picked up a recent reply from John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, when asked if free tests should be given as a matter of routine.

Mr Prescott had said: "Yes, I think it should be a right. You've got to find the money to finance it. I agree, and we have to deal with that particular argument." William Waldegrave, the Chief Treasury Secretary, yesterday challenged Labour to deny the spending proposal.

In the 1992 election, Labour said it would reinstate the free tests, which the Tories abolished in 1989 amid criticism from the opposition parties. Since then, successive shadow health secretaries have examined a variety of options, considering restoring free tests to some groups.

Last year Harriet Harman seriously considered introducing free eye tests for nine million pensioners. But yester-

day Labour made clear that there would be no such commitment at the general election.

Tony Blair did reaffirm one of the party's spending commitments yesterday, promising that women diagnosed as having breast cancer and needing surgery would have to wait no more than two weeks for an operation. The Labour leader promised to end delays and inefficiency in treatment of the disease, which he said triggered a "private and lonely crisis" for many women.

Government figures show that 10,000 women with breast cancer waited more than two weeks for operations in 1994-95; of those, 2,000 waited more than a month. Labour estimates that ending waiting lists for cancer surgery would cost

a third of the £100 million it plans to save in a first year of government by cutting NHS red tape.

Mr Blair's promise, made at the party's annual consultation meeting with women's organisations in London, was greeted with scepticism by a cancer specialist, who said it would be difficult to implement and unlikely to improve survival rates.

Richard Sainsbury, cancer surgeon at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and adviser to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, said the money would be better spent increasing the number of medical oncologists who specialised in drug treatment for cancer.

"If you come to hospital with a palpable cancer you will have had it for at least six months. Two weeks is a drop in the ocean. Most districts still have a single cancer surgeon who has to take holidays sometimes. We would far rather Labour said they would fund improvements to the cancer service recommended by the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman."

Britain has one of the highest breast-cancer mortality rates in the world, with 13,000 deaths a year, although the incidence of the disease is in line with other countries.

Mr Blair said: "If you thought more British women are diagnosed as having breast cancer, you would be wrong. It is just that more British women are dying from it and I simply do not accept that we can do nothing about it. There is clearly something wrong with the way the system is working."



Grobbelaar and wife, Debbie: "trauma of the trial"



Segers and his wife, Astrid: "He will be cleared"



Fashanu and wife, Melissa. He was a favourite in court



Lim: "I am innocent"

### Retrial

Continued from page 1  
Mel Goldberg, Mr Segers' solicitor, said: "We are very upset that we could not bash their heads (the jury's) together. It is very unsatisfactory for the defendants, the Crown and the lawyers. I am still convinced he will be cleared and so is he."

Mr Grobbelaar held his wife Debbie by the hand and donned his trademark hat as he left court to "recover from the trauma of the trial". David Hewitt, his solicitor, said that Mr Grobbelaar was disappointed at the outcome. "Bruce maintains his innocence ... one thing that has emerged during this trial was that Bruce has never thrown or attempted to throw a football match in his life."

He added that the couple and their two children, Olivia, nine, and Tahlil, 12, had been under enormous pressure and asked that their privacy be respected.

Mr Fashanu, now a millionaire businessman, left with his wife, Melissa Kassa-Mapsi, mother of his 15-month-old son Amir, refusing to comment. The former Aston Villa and Wimbledon striker had become a favourite among court staff. During lunch breaks he caused traffic jams as he handed out signed photographs to admirers.

Leaving court with his Irish wife, Cora, Mr Lim said: "I have always maintained my innocence and I will continue to do so."

The four men were accused of conspiring to give or accept money for rigging games for a Far Eastern gambling syndicate. The Crown said the plot was uncovered by a "sting" operation by The Sun which filmed Mr Grobbelaar allegedly accepting £2,000 from Christopher Vincent, a former business associate.

## Woman shot in the head on golf course

A woman was in a serious condition after being shot in the head and body while treading off on the seventeenth hole of a golf course yesterday. Her husband was arrested 15 minutes later and six miles away after crashing his car and is being treated in another hospital in Shropshire for the effects of drugs, police said. The 53-year-old woman was playing with friends at Market Drayton Golf Course, playing with friends at Market Drayton Golf Course, said: "A man was hiding in undergrowth and fired several shots at her before leaving the club." The woman, whose name was not immediately released, was shot once in the head and twice in the right side of her body. She was taken to the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford. Police said her injuries were serious but not life-threatening.

## Council wins £20m

A judge ruled in the Court of Appeal that the Environment Department must pay the north London borough of Camden an extra £20.9 million in housing subsidy. The Labour-controlled council had argued that there had been a shortfall in its subsidy because of a technical change in its accounting recommended by chartered accountants. The department is considering an appeal to the Lords.

## Mountain railway plan

Plans for Britain's first Alpine-style mountain railway are back on track after Scottish Natural Heritage lifted its objections to the £16.5 million development up the side of Cairn Gorm, near Aviemore, in the Highland region, despite opposition from environmentalists. The fanciful railway is expected to be able to carry up to 1,200 passengers to near the summit of the 4,084ft high mountain.

## UVF 'behind 25lb bomb'

A bomb found outside the offices of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, contained 25lb of a commercial explosive — six times more than originally thought. The type of explosive is often used by the Ulster Volunteer Force, an outlawed loyalist terrorist group. The bomb, which was left at the back of the Sinn Féin offices in Monaghan in the Irish Republic on Monday, failed to explode.

## Victory for gardeners

A group of organic gardeners has won a planning battle to remain on land owned by the Duchy of Cornwall in spite of the Duchy's support for a scheme to build houses for young unemployed people on the site. The Duchy had offered to pay for the gardeners to move from the Fairpark Allotments, St Columb Minor, near Newquay, to another site so that 19 homes could be built.

## Award for Hurley

Elizabeth Hurley will receive her first serious acting award in the United States later this week. Hurley, 31, also noted as Hugh Grant's girlfriend, will be named Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Dangerous Ground*, yet to open in Britain. The ShowWest award, run by the Association of American Cinema Distributors, has been given for her portrayal of a crack-addicted stripper.

## Pirate CDs seized

Britain's biggest haul of pirate compact discs has been recovered by trading standards officials. They found 135,000 CDs worth more than £1.75 million, bound for markets and car boot sales, after raiding a warehouse at an undisclosed location in Oxfordshire. Investigations are continuing and arrests may be made under the Trade Descriptions Act and the Trade Marks Act.

## Hunt for 'dead' guitarist

Interpol is expected to investigate a claimed sighting in India of Ritchie Edwards, the guitarist with the Manic Street Preachers rock group who vanished two years ago. His car was found abandoned near the Severn Bridge, leading to speculation that he had killed himself. However police are taking seriously a British lecturer's claim that he saw Edwards on a bus in Goa last November.

## Football song and dance

Football is being set to music in an initiative between professional composers, an orchestra, Premiership players and a dancing sheep. The Music and Football project, run by the East of England Orchestra and Derby County Football Club — nicknamed the Rams — will see local schoolchildren helping to compose a piece of musical theatre based on the tactics of a football match.

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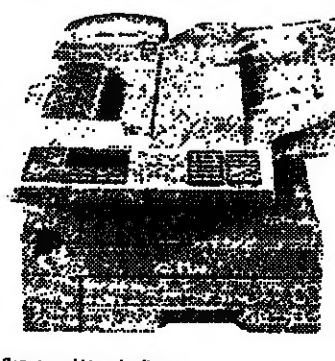
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## Evans outburst

Continued from page 1

children. I am horrified that David Evans could stoop so low as to abuse my three children with this foul word. How many parents will agree with David Evans that inspecting schools and raising standards is not a proper job?"

Janet Anderson, the shadow minister for women, called on Mr Major to dissociate himself from Mr Evans's remarks. And Elizabeth Peacock, the Tory MP for Batley and Spen, said: "It is an outrage. He is the last of the male chauvinist pigs. I thought they had died out with the dinosaurs. But Evans is still walking. He should be ashamed of himself. I feel like kicking him."

But Edwina Currie, the Tory MP for Derbyshire South, said: "I refuse to be offended by this because no

women take him seriously. They are extraordinary remarks. I suspect his wife may be waiting for him when he gets home armed with a rolling pin."

John Mansfield, the Tory group leader on Welwyn and Hatfield district council, was shocked by the comments. He said: "I cannot believe he would say such things. I would not dream of uttering such remarks in public even if I thought them. I have to dissociate myself from his remarks. They are an outrage."

Andrew Douglass, Ms Johnson's agent, said: "I am appalled. I have known Melanie for four years. She is very proud of her family. But they are not fighting the election. She is David Evans is despicable."

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'It is difficult to live a normal life. The only people I can be myself with are other bereaved parents'



Remembering their children who died almost a year ago: Duncan and Liz McLennan with Abigail; David and Karen Scott with Hannah; Barbara and Martyn Dunn with Charlotte; and Ellen and Sandy Petrie with John

## Dunblane families face anniversary united in grief

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ONE year after the Dunblane shootings, in which 16 primary school children and their teacher were killed, the victims' parents say they have learnt to cope with their grief through meeting every week to laugh and cry together.

The meetings, held every Thursday evening in the town's Ecumenical Hall, were suggested to the families by social workers, and have become an emotional anchor in their lives. Les Morton, who lost

his daughter Emily in the massacre on March 13, said: "A lot of people talk about Thursday evenings, that the meetings are the highlight of their week, and I can understand that because it is actually very difficult to live what people might think is a normal life. In a funny way, the only people that I can be myself with are the other bereaved parents, because they are the only people who really know how I feel and I know how they feel."

The parents were speaking exclusively on an ITV documentary, *Dunblane: Remembering Our*

*Children*, which will be screened at 9pm next Wednesday. The film includes home video clips and photographs of the dead children.

Ellen Petrie, who lost her son John, said: "I look forward to a Thursday night to go and sit and have a blather with the rest of the girls; where we can sit and have a drink, have a laugh and we're not crying all the time. And then the Friday morning I feel fine."

Her husband, Sandy, said: "You can feel your week falling away, all week, and then it comes to the Thursday night and once you've

been there, where the other people know exactly how you feel — and you get that life."

Liz McLennan, mother of Abigail, said that the members of the families took it in turns to deal with media inquiries, depending on how strong they felt. "There is always somebody ready there to pick up like in a battlefield, when the guy who holds the banner falls there is always somebody behind to pick up that banner and to go forward."

Martyn Dunn, who lost his daughter Charlotte, said that the other parents had become like an

extended family. He and his wife, Barbara, moved to England after the shootings because of his job, but they visit Charlotte's grave in Dunblane regularly. "Even though we are 300 miles away, we know that the extended family are looking after our interests," he said.

Mr Dunn said that all the families had co-operated with the programme-makers. Only eight of the families agreed to be interviewed because the others had not felt strong enough.

David Scott, father of Hannah, said: "We decided to make this film

to show how, in these tragic circumstances, we can be positive, how difficult it is day to day, how all of our priorities have changed and how the children and Gwen [their teacher] live on."

The parents said they had only recently started talking about the shooting itself. Most of their energy has been spent getting through one day at a time, and supporting surviving children. Mrs Petrie said she took comfort every day from going into her son's room. "In the morning I open his blind and we've got a woollen doll and I'll say,

"Morning wee man", and I know he's not going to answer me but this helps me through the day."

The parents plan to commemorate the anniversary by lighting candles in their windows. They appealed to the media to leave them alone on the day. They said: "As March 13 approaches, we have requested that Dunblane is free from media attention. We trust that you will respect our privacy and we invite everyone to share in remembering our children and their teacher by lighting a candle at seven o'clock on that evening."

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## Palumbo rails against trashy train liveries

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATE rail companies defended the colours sported by their trains yesterday after Lord Palumbo, the former Arts Council chairman, attacked the new liveries as "kitsch". Speaking in a Lords debate on design, Lord Palumbo said he despaired at the colour schemes emerging. "Why should the liveries of privatised rail services be such a rash of kitsch?" he asked.

Six private companies have unveiled the colours for their trains. They range from the menacing dark blue of the Great North Eastern Railway, which has earned its trains the nickname "Stealth Bombers", to the orange and green of Midland Main Line. Virgin, which will operate about half of all InterCity services, plans to paint its trains in its distinctive scarlet, while Great Western Trains has opted for a more sober ivory and green.

Alec Rattray, the account director at Saatchi & Saatchi Design responsible for the Midland Main Line livery, said: "We wanted to signal a change and get away from the idea of the golden age of rail and be more modern. The orange stripes are like 'go-faster' stripes to suggest that sense of speed and zooming along. I think the word 'kitsch' is unkind: one man's kitsch is

another man's good taste."

Rail commentators expressed mixed feelings about the colours, the latest in a long history of livery changes since the nationalisation of the railways in 1948. Roger Ford, Editor of *Rail Privatisation News*, said: "I agree that the Midland Main Line colours are very distinctive but I think most passengers care far more about the service inside the trains rather than the colour of the outside. The new liveries are designed to be seen from the trackside and who stands there apart from train spotters and photographers?"

Older rail buffs still hanker after the distinctive colours of the "Big Four" private companies that were amalgamated to form British Railways — the chocolate and cream of Great Western Railway, malachite green of Southern Railway, teal brown of London & North Eastern and maroon of the London, Midland & Scottish Railway.

Two other operators announced their liveries. South West Trains is to use the Stagecoach bus company corporate colours of red, blue and orange, and Connex South Eastern will be white and blue with yellow stripes.

New trains, page 26

## Sheepdip poison plea farmer is sent to jail

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

A FARMER was yesterday found guilty of attempted murder despite his plea that sheepdip poisons had made him incapable of controlling his actions.

Robert Billings, 60, was sentenced to nine years in prison for shooting George Foster in November 1993. Billings, from Warminglid in West Sussex, was given 12 years in jail for the crime in 1994. But the court of appeal quashed the conviction last July after hearing that new evidence about poisoning by the organophosphates in sheep dip had not been available at the original hearing.

The defence at the new trial at Lewes Crown Court said that the chemicals, either by themselves or in combination with severe alcoholic intoxication, had rendered Billings unable to form a specific intent to kill. It was the first time that the effect of exposure to the insecticide used by tens of thousands of sheep farmers had been offered as a defence in a criminal trial. Hundreds of farmers claim to have suffered varying degrees of ill health after dipping sheep from 1975 to 1992.

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### CORRECTION

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was educated at Harrow County Boys' School and Cambridge, not Harrow, as reported on March 2.

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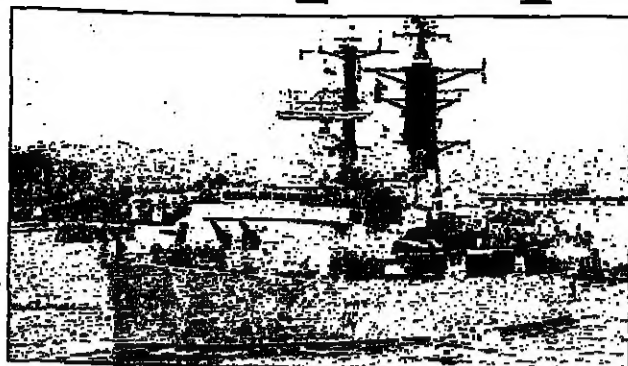
## Cleaning ladies go on board to keep destroyer shipshape

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

SIX Scottish cleaning ladies have made naval history by joining the all-male crew of a Royal Navy warship during trials at sea, it emerged yesterday.

HMS Newcastle set sail with the civilian Mrs Moppis on board because of a shortage of able seamen. The women, aged between 18 and 43, were drafted in to carry out general duties in the galley and dining hall areas between November 9 and February 3 this year. They had to sign the Official Secrets Act before boarding the Type 42 air defence destroyer and embarking on the three-month trials in British waters alongside 220 navy personnel and soldiers from 3 Para, the affiliated regiment.

None of the six employees from the Aadvark Cleaning Company, in Dunfermline, Fife, had been to sea before and had to take regular doses of anti-sea sickness tablets.



HMS Newcastle, which was cleaned by, from left, Joyce Wallace, Jackie Healy, Liz Henry, Avis Innes, Mitch Bacon and Eve Peden, who joined the all-male crew after signing the Official Secrets Act

Yesterday the Royal Navy said that the presence of the civilian cleaners on the 4,500-tonne warship freed the available HM Forces to "concentrate on other duties".

The women were trained in sea survival and firefighting before the destroyer set sail. They had separate accommodation and their own mess and showers. Unconfirmed reports say that they received a £20-a-week bonus.

Liz Henry, 44, the cleaner's

supervisor, said: "None of us had ever been to sea before on a warship so when they put the idea to us we thought we would give it a bash. It's an experience I would not have missed for the world. It was really quite exciting."

Three of the cleaners were married with children and one was replaced early on because of sea sickness. The longest spell spent at sea was two weeks.

Jackie Healy, 18, from Dun-



fermline, was the last to join the team, as the replacement, and enjoyed herself so much she now wants to join the Royal Navy. "I really enjoyed being on board HMS Newcastle. It was a laugh," she said.

Rodney Currie, manager of Aadvark Cleaning Company, in Dunfermline, said it was a marvellous opportunity for the women. He said that the firm had already had a contract to clean ships during

refits at Rosyth and was asked if staff would be interested in taking part in the sea trials. There was a flood of volunteers.

Mr Currie said: "The women were terribly excited when they went, and when they came back for Christmas they were full of stories. We do a lot of navy work and it's great when our staff get a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity such as this to go to sea. They built up a very good relation-

ship with the ship's company. I think everyone got on well."

He said that on land their job had been to jet-spray clean the ship's superstructure, including the missiles, gun muzzles and lifeboats. But at sea they concentrated on duties in the dining room and kitchen. The company is part of Aadvark Cleaning Company in Portsmouth, which has had contracts with the Ministry of Defence for eight years.

The women joined the vessel

at Rosyth and sailed to Portsmouth where most of the trials took place. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said the women did a valuable job during their time on board.

But he said there was nothing unusual in using civilian staff, although that was the first time three civilian cleaners had set sail.

He said: "It is standard procedure after a ship's refit to take on board civilian personnel but usually it is specialists,

such as engineers. In this case the ship took six contract cleaners to make sure that the Royal Navy personnel were able to concentrate fully on other duties."

The Royal Navy emphasised that the ship was undergoing only trials during the time the cleaners were on board. HMS Newcastle is now fully operational and the six temporary seafarers have returned to their normal duties on land.

## More defence cuts a risk to national security, MPs say

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FURTHER cuts in defence spending will "jeopardise the defence of the realm", an all-party Commons committee said yesterday.

MPs on the Commons Defence Committee said there was a well made case for reversing some of the cuts imposed under the Government's Options for Change review in 1990 and Frontline First in 1994. Understaffed units, particularly in the infantry, were suffering.

The committee reported that the Ministry of Defence was going to save £85 million in salaries in the current financial year because of the staff shortages, most of it from Army pay. The projected savings in future years would rise to £120 million, the MPs said. The defence budget, however, was not being reduced because the savings were being spent elsewhere in it.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, told the MPs that he was not happy about the situation and would prefer to have the forces fully manned. But the committee said that the shortages in the Army looked set to last for at least another three years. The present undermanning was 5,350, which was forecast to fall to 4,700 by April, to 4,000

in April 1998 and to about 3,000 in 1999.

The shortages had created a vicious circle, the committee said. Soldiers had to work longer hours and spend more time away from home, which resulted in more leaving the Army.

The MPs said: "We insist that the defence spending plans set out in the 1996 Budget must at least be maintained in real terms in future years."

The committee said that major equipment programmes would be vulnerable to delay or cancellation because a large number of them were due early next century. In the financial year 2003-2004, the programmes for an Horizon-class frigate, the Eurofighter combat aircraft, an upgraded Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft and a new RAF anti-aircraft weapon would be in their peak years of expenditure.

The committee also disclosed that there were 116 outstanding equipment requirements, many of which were very expensive and were also due in service at the same time. They included the Astor airborne surveillance system and Batch 2 Trafalgar class hunter-killer submarines.

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## Ship discovered off American coast rings a bell

SCOTT SHARPE/REUTERS



A bell, cast in 1709, from a wreck off North Carolina believed to be Blackbeard's ship, *Queen Anne's Revenge*

## Sea wreck renews hunt for Blackbeard's skull

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE almost certain discovery of Blackbeard's ship has raised hopes that the publicity will solve the riddle of what happened to the notorious pirate's skull. After a Highlander serving with the Royal Navy sliced Blackbeard's head off with a broadsword, his skull was said to have been lined with silver and used as a drinking vessel in the taverns of the North Carolina coast.

The wreck discovered by American archaeologists 200 yards off North Carolina — the exact site is being kept a secret to deter modern pirates — is believed to be the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, the biggest pirate ship of the time with more than 40 guns. It was hailed yesterday as the most important relic of the golden age of piracy.

David Cordingly, a world expert on pirates and author of *Life Among The Pirates*, said the only other pirate wreck of note was the *Whidah*, which belonged to the rather less celebrated Black Sam Bellamy. The prospect of raising the *Revenge* was "very exciting. This would be the greatest find, very little has been left behind by pirates and Blackbeard was the most famous of all."

Edward Teach, an Englishman who became known and feared as Blackbeard, created mayhem throughout the Caribbean and along the eastern coast of America up to Virginia in the early 18th century. He pioneered psychological warfare by spreading stories about himself. "He doesn't seem to have been terribly cruel; he doesn't seem to have



Blackbeard, right, fighting First Lieutenant Maynard. Shortly after, he lost his head

gone in for torture," Dr Cordingly said. "But he was outrageous. His big thing was to go in and blockade a whole town. Often he was really only after a medicine chest, because all his crew had syphilis. Blackbeard was the most colourful and famous pirate because his death was so dramatic."

Contemporary accounts of his grisly demise in 1718 are found in salt-stained logbooks kept by the captains of the Royal Navy ships that ensnared him, from a report in the *Boston News Letter* and in Captain Charles Johnson's *The General History of Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pirates*. The Governor of Virginia,

exasperated by the failure of his counterpart in North Carolina to "extirpate this nest of vipers", had asked the Royal Navy to go after Teach. They brought their vessels alongside his in the early morning and woke Teach from a drunken stupor.

Blackbeard, a first lieutenant, fought with swords and took shots at each other. Teach was wounded but fought on. The *News Letter* reported: "One of Maynard's men, being a Highlander, engaged Teach with his broadsword, who gave Teach such a cut on the neck, Teach saying Well done lad; the Highlander replied, If it be not well done, I'll do it better. With that he gave him a

second stroke, which cut off his head, laying it flat on his shoulder."

Local legend says that when the headless corpse was thrown overboard it swam several times round the boat.

The head was said to have been bought from Maynard by a citizen of Bath, North Carolina, boiled, and the skull lined with silver. It was reported to have been used in taverns along the East Coast as a drinking vessel. Now its location is unknown. "If all this fuss about the wreck could unearth the skull again, it would be wonderful," Dr Cordingly said.

Blackbeard is the inspiration behind a cottage industry in the parts of America that he terrorised. There is a Blackbeard museum on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, and a Blackbeard Internet site is run from Manteo in the same state. It lists the seafarer's romantic adventures: he had 12 wives, one of whom was a 16-year-old from Bath.

Residents of the islands where the wreck was found are delighted and remain fiercely loyal to Blackbeard. Jim Beach, manager of the *Queen Anne's Revenge* seafood restaurant on Roanoke Island, said yesterday: "Blackbeard was a fascinating guy and we are proud of him. He was certainly a despicable fellow, but we hold him in high regard."

## Nelson's hair saved grandson

NELSON'S blood may have been in his veins, but the grandson of Britain's greatest naval hero was not of a military disposition.

In fact, according to a letter to be sold at auction, Horace Nelson Ward's mother went to considerable lengths to ensure that he avoided having to follow in his grandfather's footsteps after being called up in 1845. Horatia Nelson Ward, the illegitimate daughter of

Nelson's liaison with Emma, Lady Hamilton, apparently even went so far as to "bribe" Sir William Burnett, an Admiralty official, by sending him a lock of her father's hair. In an accompanying letter she says: "Permit me again to thank you for your kindness to my son." Now the lock of dark brown hair and the letter are to be sold at Bonhams in London. They are expected to fetch up to

£3,000 on March 13. Alexander Crum Ewing, of Bonhams, said: "The evidence suggests that her gratitude could have been for excusing her son from his naval commitments. The gift might have acted as a guarantee, allowing Horace the freedom to become a clergyman rather than following a career in the Navy. It is recorded that when her son was called up, Horatia burnt the papers."

## Gala queen misses out in unequal contest

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

GALA queen contests, long a fixture at fairs across Scotland, are under threat after a local authority ruled that they do not conform to equal opportunities guidelines.

Fife council has banned the Miss Craigoun competition at Craigoun Country Fair, the largest fair in Fife, which is run by the council each May near St Andrews.

The girl chosen presents prizes at the fair and represents the area. But the council's East Area Community Services Committee has decided that the reigning Miss Craigoun, Alison Hughes, 17, will be the last.

Susan Clark, a committee member, said: "We feel that the contest did not reflect the true spirit of equal opportunities and placed too much

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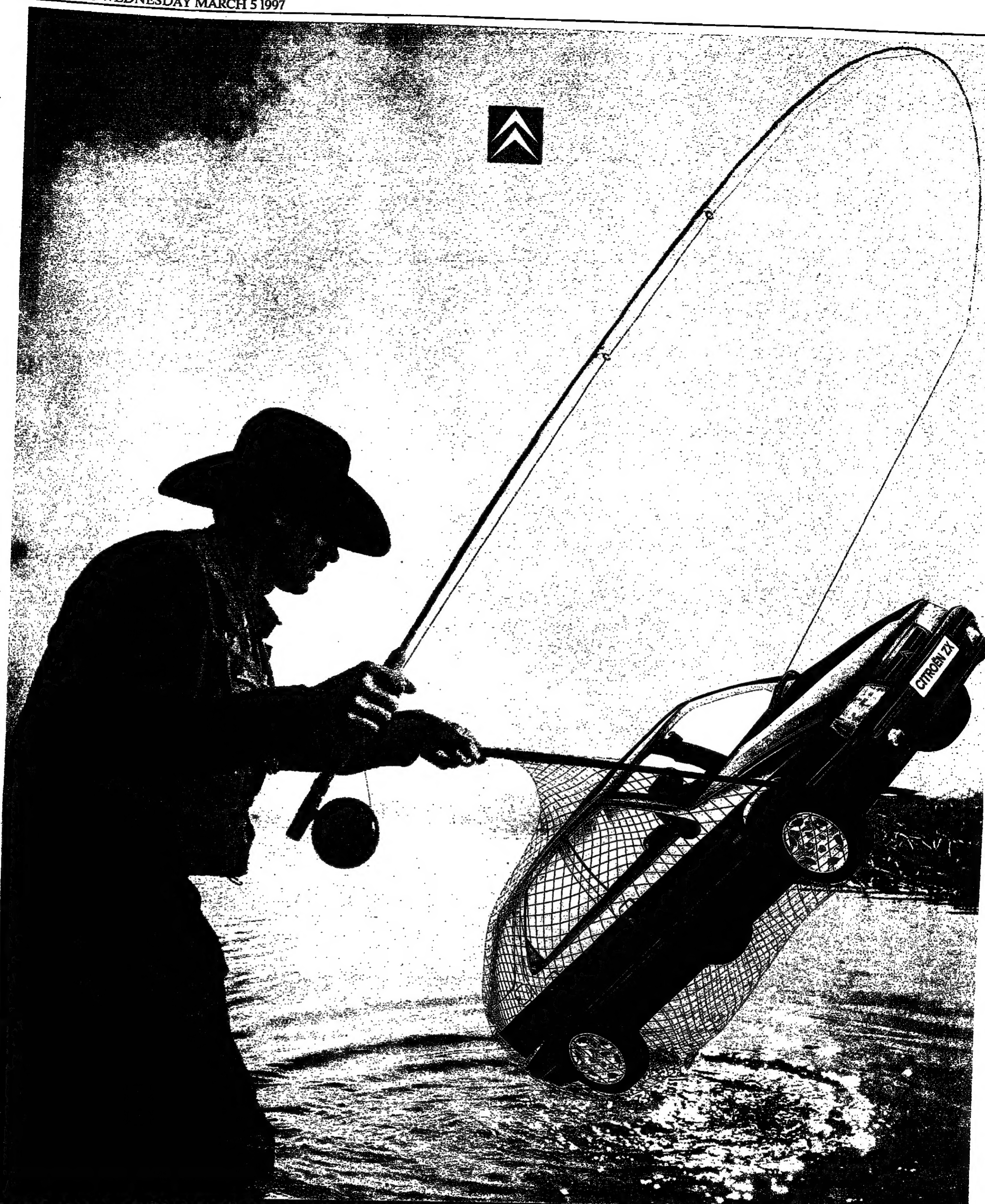
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BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT



# Hamilton verdict set to be delayed beyond the election

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE former Trade Minister Neil Hamilton is likely to fight the general election with the inquiry into cash-for-questions allegations against him remaining unfinished.

Fresh delays have disrupted the long-running Commons disciplinary investigation into accusations that he accepted gifts to table questions to ministers. A potentially explosive report into his business dealings will not be ready until the end of this month, leaving MPs insufficient time to consider its findings before the Commons rises for the election.

Mr Hamilton faces the prospect of being suspended as an MP if any of the more serious allegations against him are upheld, although he has strenuously denied any wrongdoing.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, was due to submit a report to the disciplinary committee last week. However, new contradictions in evidence submitted to the inquiry in the last week have forced him to postpone publication.

Sir Gordon and his two assistants are understood to have been "overwhelmed" by contradictions contained in oral and written evidence submitted during the four-month inquiry.

The latest delay is expected to leave senior MPs on the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges with an impossible task to agree a final report into Mr Hamilton's affairs before the election.

If the report had been completed by last week, the committee would have had time to decide whether to publish Sir Gordon's report in full or to hold public hearings then write their own report. Earlier complications had already dashed Mr Major's hopes, voiced last October, that the inquiry would be completed "well this side of a general election".

Mr Hamilton's fate may well depend on when Tory business managers decide to dissolve Parliament. If an Easter recess is called, with MPs returning for the first few days in April, the standards committee will be able to meet during the recess, and publish its report when the Commons returns. However, if Parliament is dissolved before Easter, the committee will not be able to continue its work beyond the dissolution.

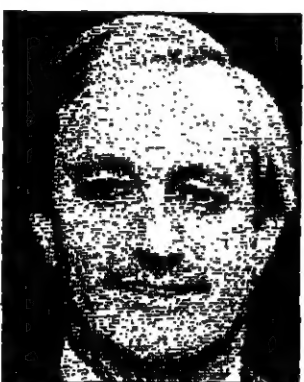
Some Labour MPs are seeking assurances that there will be a pre-election report put to the Commons, arguing that its conclusions could have a crucial bearing on whether Mr Hamilton stands as a general election candidate for his Cheshire seat of Tatton.

However, senior Labour figures are more relaxed, saying that they would prefer to decide Mr Hamilton's future after the election.

Mr Hamilton is understood to be determined to press for a public hearing so that he can defend himself against a range of allegations concerning his dealings with the lobbyist Ian Greer and Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, who claims that he paid Mr Hamilton to ask questions in the Commons. Such a move, which has the support of several MPs on the standards committee, could pave the way for a series of public hearings involving other figures central to the inquiry, leading to further delays.

The 11-member committee had prepared for a series of late-night sessions to try to complete the report, as well as leaving open the possibility of continuing its inquiry during the recess.

Sir Gordon was pressed by Mr Major to complete his work as quickly as possible, and report well before the general election. Mr Major agreed to pass to Sir Gordon any relevant documents and said: "In the interests of natural justice, I am determined that this matter shall be fully examined."



Hamilton: accused of taking cash for questions

## Major puts his body language to best use

John Major tested his powers of communication on a radio phone-in yesterday. Peter Barnard assesses his performance

THE bizarre prospect of John and Norma Major queuing outside a Huntingdon trattoria while hard-pressed Italians desert such eateries in favour of the cheaper Irish bars that are springing up in Rome was raised in the space of an otherwise unconnected three minutes yesterday.

Mr Major was supposed to begin answering phone-in questions at 10.45, but at that time BBC Radio 5 Live was still running a programme called *Eurofile*. Listeners expecting the Prime Minister instead heard that Italian youngsters, strapped for cash due, no doubt, to the strictures surrounding currency convergence, had given up eating pasta at an evening in favour of drinking Guinness.

At 10.48 the phone-in began and the first questioner wanted to know why Mr Major did not spend more time extolling the economic recovery by "showing photos of packed airports in summer and winter". Also restaurants.

Mr Major agreed that it was "very difficult to get in restaurants". This may explain why he has in the past been spotted in a Happy Easter.

There were 36,000 callers, 16 of whom got on air. Few qualified as friendly fire. Nick, a fisherman from Cornwall, said: "Ten years ago 80 or 90 per cent of fishermen were Tory, now Tory is a four-



letter swear word." Come dawn on Newlyn fish quay, one imagines the air reverberating with cries of "The Tory Spanish have caught all the Tory haddock."

The questioners rounded up the usual suspects: crime, health, education. And Mr Major chanted the usual mantras. There was an exciting moment when he announced the election date. Well, Diana Madill, the presenter, said: "So is it a fair expectation to have it as May 1 do you think?" Mr Major said: "Well there is a fair

expectation but I think I'll announce it in the normal constitutional way."

The Prime Minister is a better communicator on radio than on television or in the Commons. Body language matters on television, but Mr Major doesn't have any. In the Commons, Mr Major comes across as a soft man doing a poor impression of a hard one. On radio he is warmer: he comes over as a decent man.

But I detected that the Prime Minister is preparing himself for defeat. Asked

what was his main problem, he said: "Eighteen years is the principal problem... when you've been in government for 18 years you're fighting in a sense a phantom enemy."

The last question was about Mr Major's beloved Chelsea: had Chelsea deserved the penalty that won them a Cup tie against Leicester City? "I don't think it was a penalty," Mr Major said, but added: "It's a hell of a job being a referee." He sounded wistful, as if wishing he had handed out more red cards in Cabinet, somewhat earlier in the game.

## TV advert warns of sectarian violence

By AUDREY MAGEE  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE horror of sectarian violence was portrayed in a public information film broadcast on television in Northern Ireland for the first time last night.

The 80-second film is an attempt by the Northern Ireland Office to warn people, as the marching season looms, of the dangers of sectarian hatred.

*Timebomb* depicts a group of children and infants playing happily in a bright toy-filled room. But the atmosphere gradually becomes ominous as radio news interrupts their play with reports of bomb blasts, church protests, civil unrest at Drumcree and punishment attacks, including a crucifixion.

To an arrangement of the Diana Ross song *Do you know where you're going to?*, the room darkens and the film ends with a scene reminiscent of *Child Play*, the video film said to have been watched by the two young boys who murdered Jamie Bulger. The final shot fades out on the face of a young child.

Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, presented the film yesterday and said: "This film is, frankly, one we would all wish should never have had to be made. Viewers may find it disturbing, perhaps even frightening. That is not unintentional."

*Timebomb* is the latest in a series of films made by the Northern Ireland Office to promote peace and understanding in Ulster. It cost the taxpayer £185,000 and will be regularly broadcast on UTV, the ITV channel in Ulster.

The NIO has been making television and radio broadcasts promoting peace in Ulster since the beginning of the Troubles over 25 years ago. Since the late 1980s, the broadcasts have been more sophisticated and thematic.

Plans to compare recent burnings of churches and schools with Kristallnacht in Germany in November 1938 were shelved in the face of severe criticism from historians and Jewish groups. A government spokesman said the idea was still seen as valid and could be used again later.

## Mawhinney wins poster row with Saatchi

By ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE latest Tory poster reached the nation's billboards yesterday only after Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, resolved a dispute between the party chairman and the advertising guru Maurice Saatchi.

The poster, which attacks Labour's economic policy, was presented to a meeting of strategists at Conservative Central Office last Tuesday. The party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, who made clear in weekend press interviews that he was in charge of the election campaign, insisted on testing the poster with focus groups of floating voters.

Lord Saatchi, whose company M & C Saatchi created the poster, refused to countenance the idea. The newly ennobled peer, who has worked on four previous gen-

eral election campaigns, resented the suggestion that his company's work should be market tested.

But Dr Mawhinney, who has the support of Norman Blackwell, head of the Downing Street policy unit, argued that all future posters should be tested. The dispute arose against a background of private criticism at Central Office and Downing Street about the poster of a lion shedding a red tear.

The lion, which was even disliked by the Prime Minister, has been sent back to the zoo because it was deemed to have been a flop. Dr Mawhinney and Mr Blackwell were concerned it had not gone before focus groups before it was displayed at hundreds of sites around the country at a cost of tens of thousands of pounds.

The dispute between Dr Mawhinney and Lord

Saatchi, who is close to John Major, was not resolved by the end of Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning Michael Heseltine, who will play the role of campaign peacemaker between Central Office, Downing Street and M & C Saatchi, decided to intervene. He backed Dr Mawhinney.

The poster, which was unveiled at Central Office yesterday, shows the Labour leader against in red letters "Tony & Bill" alongside the words: "£30 billion spending promises." Underneath is written: "Who pays?"

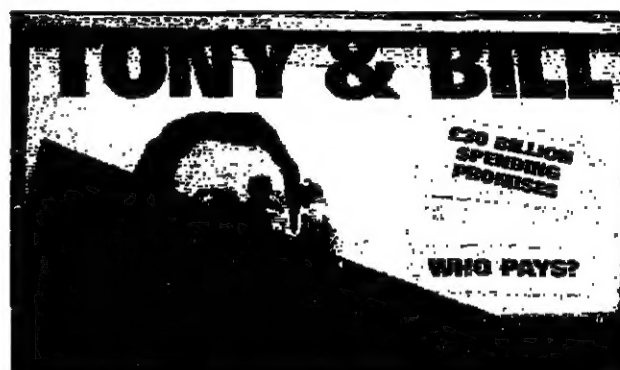
But before the launch was sanctioned it was tested by focus groups, which responded enthusiastically. It was a victory for Dr Mawhinney, but one that confirmed the fears of some Central Office officials that he has not stamped his authority hard enough on the campaign. "Michael Heseltine has the

clout," one official said yesterday.

Dr Mawhinney denied that the lion posters, which have been criticised by the advertising industry, had been dropped because they were a mistake. He said that the lion theme had never been intended to run throughout the campaign.

Labour, which welcomed Ben Chapman, new MP for

Wirral South, to Westminster yesterday, condemned the Tories' new poster. Brian Wilson, the campaign manager, said: "It speaks volumes that all the Tories have to offer is more of the same crude, negative campaigning that failed so dismally in the Wirral. The Tories have now become negative campaign junkies."



Photograph, page 24

The new Tory poster being unveiled yesterday

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## Labour and Lib Dems in voting reform deal

By JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats will today announce a deal on constitutional reform that will include the setting up of a new commission on voting reforms.

Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, and Robert Maclennan, president of the Liberal Democrats, will publish a report from a joint constitutional committee that has met in recent months.

Yesterday Liberal Democrat sources said they hoped the agreement would ensure that "an old voting system goes out with an old century". But Labour sources made clear that the party had not given into Liberal Democrat demands for a timetable for a referendum on PR. They suggested the report would merely say that a referendum on voting systems "will not be ruled out in a first Parliament".

The report is, however, expected to propose that a commission would have 12 months to assess the best voting system, behind which all those in favour of electoral reform would unite. The new system would be put as an alternative to the status quo if and when Tony Blair decided to hold a referendum.

### IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: from 9.30am, backbench debate. From 2.30pm, Speeches: Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act (Continuance); Order; Appropriation (Northern Ireland) Order; backbench debate on the Water Cess Act. In the Lords: debate on the state of the economy; Lloyd's TSB Bill, second reading; debate on serious delinquency in the provision of medical services, including welfare, for servicemen and their families.

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# Half of children's intensive care units could be merged

HALF the children's intensive care units in England could be merged or closed under plans drawn up by a health department committee. Fewer, larger units run by highly qualified staff would provide a higher quality of care for the 12,000 children a year who are seriously injured in accidents or fall critically ill, according to the National Co-ordinating Group on the Provision of Paediatric Intensive Care.

The proposal will raise fears that access to the units will be difficult and comes after complaints that hospitals are repeatedly turning away youngsters because of a shortage of

beds. The Royal College of Nursing said that ease of access was a major concern and any delay in admission could jeopardise recovery. However, the committee says that more beds have been provided and the switch to fewer units must be backed by "retrieval teams" who would go out to fetch children by ambulance.

The pressures were demonstrated last week when a three-year-old girl with meningitis was taken 200 miles by helicopter from Sunderland to Glenfield hospital in Leicester after her parents were told that the specialist treatment

**A committee set up after the death of a 10-year-old boy for whom no bed could be found has recommended that the NHS runs fewer, larger units for children, Jeremy Laurance reports**

she needed was not available locally. The girl, Jodie Levey, died on Monday night of meningococcal septicaemia.

The national co-ordinating group was set up by the Department of Health last year after an inquiry into the death from a brain

haemorrhage of ten-year-old Nicholas Geldard from Stockport after an unsuccessful search for a bed. The committee presented its draft report to a conference of specialists in London yesterday. The final report will go to ministers in May.

Evidence from Britain and abroad shows that children do better in bigger units with trained staff on duty 24 hours. Although the draft report does not specify a minimum number of beds, it says that units must be of a sufficient size to sustain full-time highly qualified staff working exclusively in intensive care.

One paediatric consultant said: "You have to ask what you would expect if your child was in an intensive care unit. I would say I would expect a doctor who knew what was going on to be there 24 hours a day."

There are about 30 intensive care units for children but half have fewer than six beds and some have only one or two. Some beds are also provided in specialist units, such as those treating burns.

are still looked after in adult units or on the wards.

The group envisages one or two lead units in each of the eight health regions in England. It says the switch to larger units should be phased in over several years, but in the meantime smaller units must arrange to work closely with their nearest large centre and agree arrangements for the transfer of patients.

An extra £1 million was made available last year to establish specialist retrieval teams and every hospital with a unit will be instructed to provide one.

## Pollution alert boosts sales of bottled water

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

SALES of bottled water are booming across Britain as people respond to an outbreak of cryptosporidium in Hertfordshire and north London by shunning tap water.

Suppliers of a leading brand of bottled water said that demand from retailers had risen to more than a million bottles a day, five times the normal figure. A spokesman for Premier Waters, which supplies Evian mineral water, claimed that the outbreak of diarrhoea in Watford, St Albans and north-west London had worried consumers elsewhere.

Last night the number of confirmed victims of the microscopic parasite in the affected area had risen from 32 to 38. The outbreak, which has led to 300,000 households served by Three Valleys Water

being told to boil their water until further notice, comes after a report by the Environment Agency that public supplies are contaminated by pollution and toxic algae.

Premier Waters said: "The main concentration of demand was in the affected area but it was also higher in other parts of the country... sales were above those of summer-time peak demand."

A spokeswoman for Sainsbury's also reported heavy demand at stores in the affected area. "It is too soon for us to tell what is happening nationally," she said. Special consignments were being brought in from Scotland.

Asda sent 78,000 bottles to the area to cope with demand — selling them at a non-profit price. Supplies at the Asda store in Bexleyheath, Kent —

40 miles away — sold out. The Drinking Water Inspectorate, health officials and Three Valleys Water sought to pin down the source of the outbreak yesterday. Cryptosporidium is found in farm manure and food and can be transmitted by contact with infected people.

Three Valleys said it had contacted hospitals, schools, vulnerable customers, dentists, pharmacists and others with information and advice. It said it knew that a pharmacist had claimed that contaminated water had caused an increased level of illness in the Barnet area in December, but Barnet was outside the area currently affected and was supplied from a different water source. Tests at the time had showed no evidence of contamination.



Clean bald: Ian Botham, the cricket commentator and former England player, with a New Zealand policewoman after their heads were shaved for a child cancer charity. Botham hopes to raise £21,000. Match report, page 46

## Judge gets clean away with Elvis exhibit

By Emma Wilkins

A HIGH COURT judge picked up his Elvis Presley soap and bottle of perfume and walked happily from court yesterday after reserving judgment over the battle of the King of Rock 'n' Roll's name.

Mr Justice Laddie was delighted when told he could keep the £5.99 bottle and £1 bar of soap, which bears the image of Elvis Presley.

The products are manufactured by Sid Shaw, 50, who has built up over 20 years a £3 million business in Elvis Presley memorabilia, trading in Britain as Elvisly Yours.

Mr Shaw, from Shoreditch, east London, is appealing against a ruling last year that gave Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc. of Memphis, Tennessee, three trademarks on Elvis Presley toiletries in Britain.

As Richard Meade, counsel for Mr Shaw, handed over the goods, Mr Justice Laddie said: "Thank you. With these, I could be a millionaire in a few years' time." The court was told earlier that, under American law, Elvis Presley Enterprises was the direct successor to the late singer.

Peter Prescott, QC, counsel for Elvis Presley Enterprises, said: "In the case of someone selling a bar of Elvis Presley soap, I'm asking the court to make an assessment whether there would be a substantial risk that a substantial number of members of the public would assume it had something to do with the Elvis Presley estate."

But Mr Justice Laddie said people were unlikely to make a connection between Presley, who died in 1977, and a product for sale 20 years later. "Everyone knows Elvis Presley is dead. Everyone knows that a bar of soap now has not been given some special appointment by Elvis Presley."

The connection was unlikely as if someone began to sell handbags with the words Margaret Thatcher on them or aftershave bearing the name Disraeli, the judge said.

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## Fit that spoiled Liz Taylor's party is not too serious

**MEDICAL BRIEFING**

Dr Thomas Stuttford

LIZ TAYLOR is reported to have had a seizure during recuperation after brain surgery for a meningioma. She has been readmitted to the hospital where the operation took place but in every other way is said to have made an excellent recovery. A meningioma is a benign tumour of the covering of the brain.

An epileptiform seizure after surgery to remove a meningioma is common. Farhad Afshar, a consultant neurosurgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, said that the incidence of seizures after removal of a meningioma was as much as 15 per cent. It largely depended on the position of the growth.

In Miss Taylor's case the tumour is reported to have been sited in the brain above her ear, in the region of the temporal lobe. In this position post-surgical epilepsy is more likely. Unless the patient is very old, and the meningioma is causing little trouble, surgical removal is the standard treatment.

The reports on the position of Miss Taylor's tumour make it likely that the operation would have been 100 per cent successful. A spokesman at the Institute of Epileptology at the Maudsley Hospital in London said that a survey had shown that if a patient was to suffer a seizure after brain surgery, 37 per cent would have one within the first week.

After such a seizure patients are prescribed anti-epileptic drugs for at least two years. However, treatment has recently so improved that nearly all patients can be kept free of seizures.

Whereas most brain tumours are more common in men than women, meningiomas are found more frequently in women. The tumours occur at any age but Miss Taylor just comes within the

range when they are most often diagnosed — 40-60: she had to cancel her sixtieth birthday party because of the fit.

As in any brain tumour a seizure is a frequent initial symptom. In other cases meningiomas may cause pressure on a cranial nerve that results in problems with vision, swallowing or hearing. Other patients will notice changes in the power or sensation in their limbs but in many cases the first symptom is a subtle personality change.

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Taylor will be given anti-epileptic drugs



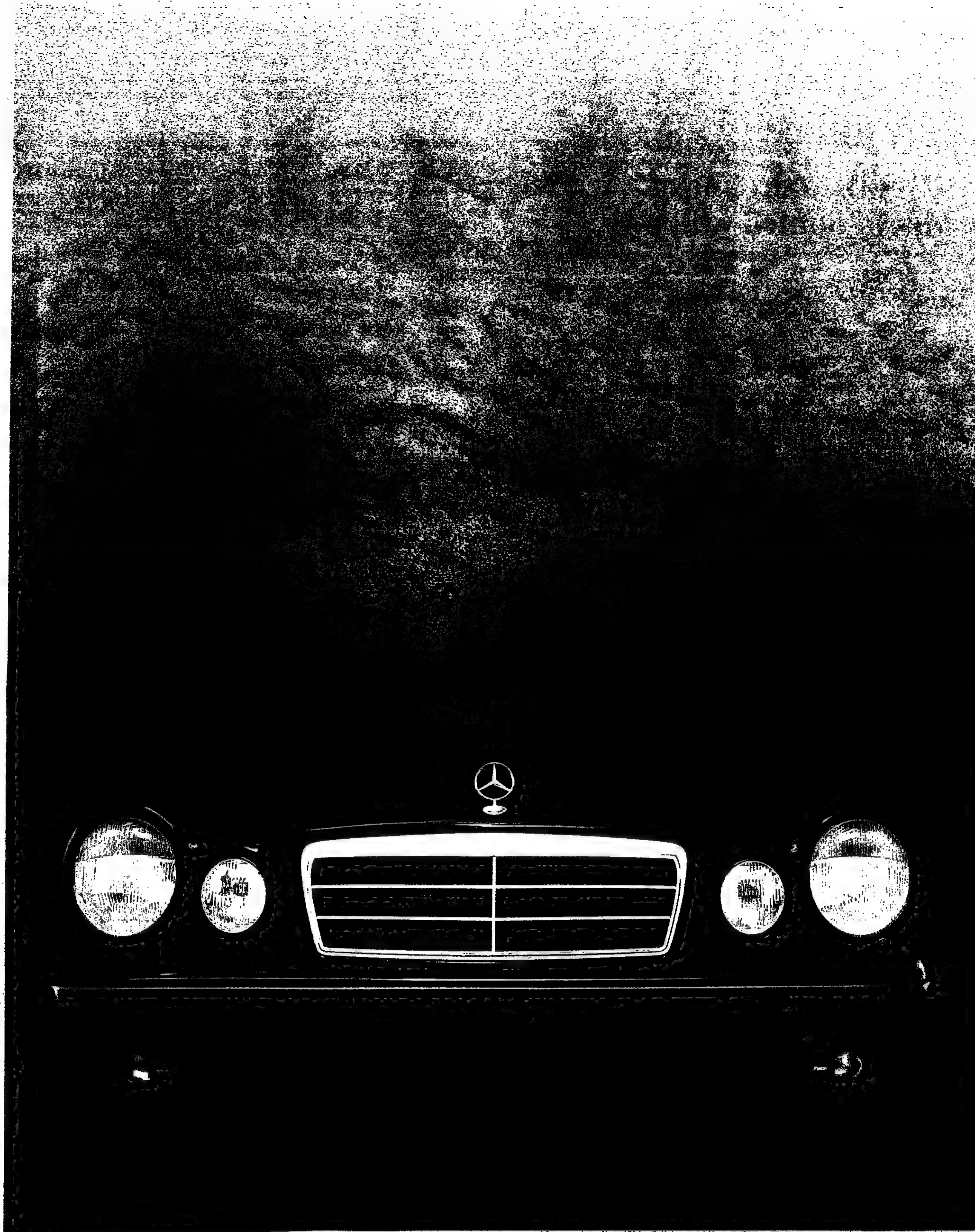
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Battle for final 12 miles to radioactive waste dump intensifies as German activists tunnel under road

## Anti-nuclear protesters defy police onslaught

FROM ROGER BOYES IN GORLEBEN

THE German police yesterday launched baton charges and fired powerful water canon against masked some-throwing anti-nuclear protesters in a pitched battle to gain control of a country road leading to a radioactive waste dump.

Petrol bombs flew through the air, bursting at the feet of several hundred riot police as the German authorities tried to find a way of transporting some 700 tonnes of nuclear waste to a huge fortified warehouse in Gorleben.

The six nuclear canisters were carried the length of Germany, from Bavaria in the south to the far northeast of the country, in a railway odyssey. Saboteurs sawed through tracks or made hoax bomb alarms and, on the final stretch, two protesters covered themselves with quick-setting cement in an attempt to delay the cargo. "Delay is a kind of victory for us... it gives the Government time to change its mind," said Peter Lustig of the Gusbörn protest camp, one of 14 improvised settlements that have sprung up during this frenzied week of demonstration and rioting.

A few dozen yards away from Herr Lustig's camp was a further sign of the delaying strategy: an approach road to Gorleben which had been undermined in four places by tunnellers. Earth has been scooped out by the barrowload

in deliberate imitation of the tactics used by British motorway protest tunnellers.

Yesterday, an official from the highway authority pronounced the road unsafe for the nuclear containers which have now been unloaded from the train and placed on heavy, low-slung lorries for the last 12 miles to Gorleben.

That sabotage — condemned as dangerous by Social Democrat politicians and even by some members of the so-called "resistance" — has switched the focus to the other main access road. This runs through the village of Quickborn and protesters were yesterday promising that the "battle of the Quickborn Road" would be fought today.

The spoils of victory could be huge for the protesters since it would wreck Germany's nuclear energy programme. Jürgen Trittin, a Green politician, is urging the authorities to take the waste back to the south of Germany since it was clear that the population around Gorleben would never accept a nuclear dump.

If all roads were made impassable and the waste had to be returned, the authorities would have to rethink their strategy. That prospect, however remote, has given an edge to the protests. Germany has strict laws on the suitability of roads for heavy-duty traffic and it would not take much to



German riot police, top, and anti-nuclear protesters, above, line up for confrontation as authorities sought to move a nuclear waste shipment to the dump in Gorleben

make them unsafe. Some of the 1,200 inhabitants of the Gusbörn protest camp were preparing yesterday for the Quickborn campaign. Others gathered around a loudspeaker in the centre of the camp — which, with its wig-

wams, resembles an Indian reservation — to hear intercepted police messages. "We have taken two prisoners..." crackled one message. "Wait for further instructions," came the standard reply.

The protesters — tired and

unwashed after two cold, damp nights in an open field — cackled with mirth until a camp orderly told them to switch off the transmission since it is an illegal act to tune into the German police frequency. Although the anti-

nuclear activists talk around their campfires about Gandhi and Mao, they confirm to German standards of discipline. Yesterday, they were dutifully sorting their rubbish according to its recycling value, dogs were kept on leads

and alcohol was banned. The Gorleben campaign taps a German nerve. Farmers, elderly villagers, shopkeepers and teachers all support the militants and close their eyes to the violence because something fundamentally German

— the sanctity of nature — appears to be under threat. Indeed, for generations of Germans brought up on Novalis and other Romantic poets, the defence of nature is a basic right that justifies civil disobedience.

## Turkish leader defies military ultimatum to halt Islamic drift

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TURKEY'S pro-Islamic Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, yesterday defied threats by his military to force him to halt what they see as the country's drift towards radical Islam.

He told supporters that he would not resign but would soldier on as the defender of democracy and the sovereignty of parliament. "That is it. No more discussion," he told his Welfare Party MPs ahead of a planned opposition motion of no confidence, which was rejected by parliament.

The supporters made it clear that they had no intention of implementing a strict package of measures produced by the military.

However, the Turkish armed forces are unlikely to retreat from their ultimatum, issued after a nine-hour meeting of the country's National Security Council last Friday. Commentators have described the meeting as being nothing



Erbakan: will not leave office without a fight

short of a military coup by stealth.

The council promised to enforce unspecified "sanctions" if the Government failed to root out "anti-state activities concealed in anachronistic guise".

The published communiqué also reiterated Turkey's desire to join the European Union. Many of the measures the

military seems to be proposing are themselves anachronistic and incompatible with Turkey's European ambitions. They include reinstatement in some form of Article 163 of the penal code used to combat religious propaganda against the state.

The military also wants stricter enforcement of Article 174 of the Constitution, which safeguards some of the initial radical reforms of the Turkish republic. Among them are the now neglected prohibitions against Islamic dress and religious brotherhoods.

The forces are clearly alarmed at the spread of a radical Islamic counter-culture in many urban centres of Turkey, through private Koranic schools and secret organisations.

The generals are believed to have presented Mr Erbakan with intelligence reports suggesting that Islamic militancy has overtaken Kurdish separatism as the country's number one threat.

The military's list of about 20 demands, however, appears designed to make it impossible for Mr Erbakan, whose Welfare Party campaigned for fuller Islamic rights, to continue in office. He has made it clear that he will not go without a fight.

His one comfort is that he knows the military will hesitate to antagonise domestic and international opinion with a full seizure of power. An attempt to prune the Welfare Party by force risks making it grow stronger.

The military's outspokenness is a reflection of widespread frustration in Turkey that the Welfare Party managed to gain power last July with only 21 per cent of the vote. Mr Erbakan skillfully exploited a personal enmity between the leaders of the two centre-right parties.

The generals are trying to exert pressure on one of the parties, the True Path, led by Tansu Ciller, to pull out of the ruling coalition.

## EMU delay 'requires new treaty'

Bonn: Helmut Hesse, a member of the Bundesbank council, was quoted yesterday as saying that a delay in launching the European single currency would force the renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty, and its ratification by EU member states.

Herr Hesse, in an interview with the *Nordsee-Zeitung* of Bremerhaven, also said the efforts of some countries to join economic and monetary union did not mean that the Maastricht criteria could be ignored.

"At the moment, all member states are widely determined to fulfil the criteria and be there at the start. It would be a loss of prestige to miss the start," he said.

But, he added: "We must insist the criteria are strictly observed because the entry of Germany is only allowable under the constitution if the currency union is stable." Record postwar unemployment has pressured state finances and put reaching the criteria into doubt. (Reuter)

## Nato chief says Moscow ready for security deal

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO and Russia are about to begin work on the text of an agreement that will lead to a new strategic security partnership, Javier Solana, the alliance's Secretary-General, disclosed yesterday.

He said he believed that the Russians would agree to the partnership and that it was hoped to complete a deal before the Nato summit in Madrid on July 8. Señor Solana, who was speaking during a visit to London, is flying to Moscow this week-end for negotiations with Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister.

The increasing confidence within the alliance that Moscow will reach an agreement was reflected in a meeting yesterday at Downing Street between the Nato Secretary-General and John Major, Downing Street sources said.

The Prime Minister and Señor Solana agreed that there were positive signs that Nato and Russia could agree on a new

security relationship. Although Moscow continues to oppose Nato's plan to offer membership of the alliance to several former Warsaw Pact nations at the Madrid summit, the detailed negotiations between Señor Solana and the Russians over the past few months had proved constructive, the Nato chief said.

Addressing the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Señor Solana said: "We are about to begin work on the text of an agreement. The atmosphere is constructive. I do not want to minimise the difficulties, but I believe they are interested in a partnership with Nato and that we will conclude one." He said there was "movement and momentum" in the discussions. "What we are willing to conclude with Russia is of far-reaching importance for the whole of Europe."

There was no question, he added, of "buying Russia off" or compensating it for the

alliance's proposal to extend further east. "Like the enlargement process itself, the development of our relationship with Russia is part of a wider transformation of Nato that will be good for Russia, good for Nato and good for the whole of Europe," he said.

Señor Solana said that critics of enlargement appeared to forget that it was part of a broader strategy to create a more stable and secure Europe: "I see a great tendency to highlight the difficulties and speculate about the consequences of enlarging Nato, but far less attention to the far greater implications of not doing so." To maintain Nato as a "closed shop" would be to keep the countries of Central and Eastern Europe "imprisoned in their past".

Dismissing claims that enlargement would be hugely expensive, he said that opening Nato to new members would be a "good bargain and a sound investment".

## Paralysed Frenchman tells his story in the wink of an eye

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A PARALYSED former magazine editor has written an acclaimed book using the only part of his body that still moves — his left eyelid.

Jean-Dominique Bauby, 44, was the editor-in-chief of *Elle* until he suffered a brain haemorrhage on December 8, 1995, which plunged him into a coma. When he awoke he

was permanently paralysed from head to toe. He could not speak and needed help to eat and breathe. Only his brain and one eyelid functioned normally. M Bauby was diagnosed as suffering from "locked-in" syndrome, a rare neurological condition in which the part of the brain that sends commands to the body is destroyed.

The former editor, who has described his condition as being like

a prisoner trapped inside an old-fashioned diving suit, nevertheless resolved to write a book. Just over a year later, M Bauby's courage and determination have been rewarded and *The Diving Suit and the Butterfly* will be published by Robert Laffont on Friday. Described by *Le Figaro* as poignant and distressing, the book is widely considered to be a tribute to the resilience of the spirit.

Translating the flight of the butterfly

onto paper was an agonisingly slow process. Every day for a year, Claude Mendibil, an editor with Laffont, came to M Bauby's hospital room in Berck-sur-Mer, 50 miles south of Calais. She recited an alphabet in which the letters are ordered according to the frequency with which they occur in the French language. When she arrived at the desired letter, the paralysed man would wink and Mme Mendibil

wrote the letter down. By that laborious process, words and sentences and eventually whole pages of text were created.

M Bauby has not lost his sense of humour. Interviewed in *Elle*, he said: "I love the story of Claude going to a café after one of our long 'dictation' sessions. The barman gave her a big wink and she burst out laughing, leaving the poor man completely baffled."

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# Netanyahu defies US by ordering start on settlement

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

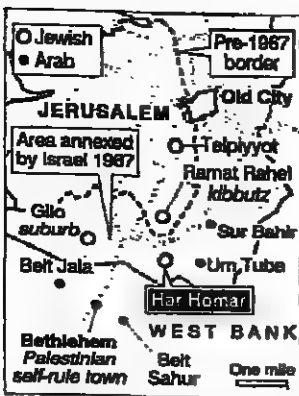
THE Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, defied criticism by President Clinton and other world leaders and vowed yesterday to start work within a day on a settlement in occupied Jerusalem that will provide homes for 6,500 Jewish families.

Diplomats said that Mr Netanyahu's rejection of American opposition to the work at Har Homa had put the biggest strain on US-Israeli relations since his election last May over Mr Clinton's preferred candidate, Shimon Peres, of Labour.

Har Homa is what many observers will be a new round of Israeli-Palestinian clashes, the Prime Minister told army radio in reference to work on the hill between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. "It is two weeks from the standpoint of the bulldozers. From the standpoint of the survey work, it is only a few days. We are determined to go on building in Jerusalem."

The Prime Minister added, in the face of increasing pressure at the United Nations against the project: "If it were not for the legal restrictions, the bulldozers would have been on Har Homa yesterday and not two weeks from now."

Mr Netanyahu denied that a brief delay in sending in the surveyors had been in order to



minimise the inevitable hostility he will face during a visit today to Egypt, where President Mubarak has spoken of the grave dangers posed by Har Homa to the fragile peace process.

The Israeli leader brushed off remarks made in Washington where Mr Clinton sided with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, saying that plans to build on occupied land theoretically the subject of future Israeli-Palestinian negotiations would fuel mistrust. "There was nothing new in what he [Clinton] said," Mr Netanyahu told the radio. "The Americans understand our policy well."

He said that Mr Clinton had also made clear to Mr Arafat that America would not tolerate violence. Many Arabs

and Israelis have voiced fears that the first flashpoint could come as early as Friday when the Palestine Liberation Organisation is trying to organise a mass prayer session at the site.

A senior PLO official said Monday's general strike in the West Bank and Gaza was "the first angry message, which will be followed by more powerful protest measures".

After warnings that violence could be worse than that sparked last September by the Israeli opening of a tunnel near Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, Israeli tanks and snipers have been placed on alert in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. At the first sign of concerted trouble, an iron-fist response codenamed Operation Field of Thorns will be launched.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 war and soon after annexed it, a move still not recognised internationally, which is why the embassies of the world powers are situated in Tel Aviv.



PERE DUBAN/AP

## Warrior's final retreat

The Spanish Foreign Ministry has bowed to pressure from African diplomats and belatedly ordered the removal of an African warrior who was stolen from his grave, stuffed and put on display at the Museum of Natural

History at Banyoles, near Barcelona (Michael Dines writes). A boycott of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics was threatened by African protesters unless the Senegalese warrior, known as El Negro, was removed from display, returned to his homeland and given a dignified burial.

The warrior has been displayed in a glass case, and largely ignored, in the Spanish town since 1916. The stuffed warrior, exhibited alongside an ape and a monkey, had shocked some visitors.

The warrior has been displayed in a glass case, and largely ignored, in the Spanish town since 1916. The stuffed warrior, exhibited alongside an ape and a monkey, had shocked some visitors.

## Zimbabwe drafts law to allow race bias

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

A BILL to legalise racial discrimination in the form of affirmative action in Zimbabwe's business sector is expected to be introduced soon. Critics say it will fan increasing tension between blacks and whites and entrench corruption.

A draft of the "Prevention of Discrimination" Bill proposes to extend prosecutions for discrimination beyond public services to the denial of personal finance and the refusal to sell property.

The main thrust of the Bill is a clause which permits discrimination when it is to advance "persons disadvantaged by past discrimination". The draft is a response to a vociferous campaign over the past seven years by black businessmen to have white businesses excluded from state contracts and to force banks to grant loans to black businessmen at preferential rates.

Professor Welshman Ncube, head of the University of Zimbabwe's public law department, described the draft as vague, arbitrary and open to abuse.

## Rabbis keep the lid on frontline cornflakes

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

REAL soldiers want a real breakfast — cornflakes. But the Israel Army's rabbis have infuriated the men by delaying the request because of strict Jewish dietary laws.

The army said this week that cornflakes have recently been added to the daily ration of combat soldiers, but are not yet being served because small, and often dangerously exposed, army outposts in areas such as occupied southern Lebanon are not equipped

to store the milk separately from meat products.

Jewish dietary laws require a separation of all dairy and meat products. Cheese packaged in sealed containers can be stored in the same kitchen as meat, but milk needs its own container which can be found only on larger military bases.

After expressions of anger from combat troops, who have already been suffering morale problems over their conditions, the army said that it was considering changes to enable the fighters to start the day with their favourite meal. The changes would involve the purchase of long-life milk which enables cornflakes to be added to the standard frontline breakfast rations of bread, eggs, tomatoes and cucumber.

Such has been the pace of social change in Israel that off-duty soldiers are able to enjoy that most non-kosher of delicacies, a cheeseburger, at a large new McDonald's in Jerusalem.

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Rebels seize weapons from barracks as secret police start house-to-house searches

## Beleaguered Berisha puts close aide at army's head



The Albanian President needs to know that soldiers will fire at civilians if ordered, writes Richard Owen in Tirana

THE Albanian Army began yesterday to disarm rebels in southern Albania under emergency regulations issued by President Berisha authorising troops to open fire on protesters carrying weapons.

The protesters continued to roam southern Albania at will, and much of the country appeared out of Tirana's control, casting doubt on the army's ability or willingness to restore order. Opposition leaders said many protesters were prepared to fight despite the Government's "shoot to kill" policy, and there was a risk of "serious bloodshed".

Army bases in Vlore and Himara were looted. In Vlore, a four-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while playing in her garden. The hospital in Vlore was looted by rebels who stole food and clothing, firing weapons in the corridors and operating rooms.

In a surprise move intended to tighten his grip on the

army, President Berisha, who was re-elected by parliament on Monday after ordering a state of emergency, sacked General Sheme Kosova, his Chief of Staff, and replaced him with his own military adviser, General Adem Copani. An official communiqué said General Kosova was directly responsible for "failing to defend army barracks in the south against looters".

The move also appeared aimed at countering soldiers' reluctance to fire on civilians, even if armed. Two weeks ago General Kosova personally oversaw the recapture of a strategic bridge taken by the rebels in the southern town of Memaliaj, but it was subsequently recaptured. The army lost credibility as a result, with morale severely undermined.

The authorities said more than 1,500 weapons, looted from police and army arsenals last weekend in an orgy of rioting, had been handed in.



A masked man fires an AK47 outside the university in Vlore. Mayhem reigned as rebels looted army stores, fired into a hospital and seized a warship

But in Sarande, on the Adriatic coast, protesters declared their own "government" and army commanders simply told their troops to go home, according to television reporters in the area.

The Sarande rebels commandeered a rusting warship from the naval base — part of the small and dilapidated Albanian Navy — and began firing at the coast. Further south, in Gjirokastra, a petrol station and hotel owned by Gjallica — one of the failed pyramid funds — was burnt

and looted. In Fier, close to Tirana, rebels in cars and lorries opened fire on an army barracks and seized army weapons until police arrived to rescue the local army commander. Army bases in Vlore and Himara were also looted.

The Berisha Government's attempt to impose a total news blackout was abandoned after international protests, with the European Broadcasting Union able to restore satellite links for foreign broadcasters, whose relay station was cut on Monday. A government

spokesman said foreign journalists were free to report provided they "stayed within Albanian law".

Journalists were expelled from southern towns on Monday and were yesterday advised not to return "for their own safety" because the situation in some towns is still not under the control of state institutions.

But the Albanian media remained muzzled, and officials insisted this was in accordance with European and United Nations conventions. Pavle Mihalj Qesku, the Albanian Ambassador in London, said the internal media restrictions were a temporary measure, but insisted that international coverage was unrestricted. He said the situation in Sarande and Vlore and a "stretch of land along the coast" was out of control, but this was only "a fraction of the country".

There were reports of a crackdown in Lushnje, 60 miles south of Tirana, with troops surrounding the town and carrying out house-to-house searches with agents of the feared secret police, the Shik. Troops in tanks and armoured personnel carriers also surrounded Vlore, the

Adriatic port at the centre of the rebellion.

Foreign residents, mainly Italians, evacuated from Vlore by helicopter on Monday said the town was still in the hands of armed rebels, many of them youths in their twenties wearing balacavas or Palestinian-style keffiyehs and driving lorries and cars flying the Albanian flag, a black eagle on a red background. "There is absolute mayhem in Vlore," one Italian businessman said. "Complete chaos, a free for all".

Albanian opposition leaders said they did not believe Albanian troops, a third of whom are conscripts, would open fire on their fellow citizens. "They are just boys in uniform," a member of the opposition Forum for Democ-



Leading article, page 19

## General's mission to dragoon troops

By JAMES PETTIFER

THE sacking by President Berisha of Albania's army chief and the appointment of General Adem Copani in his place indicates the difficulty the ruling Government is having in making the state of emergency effective.

The army was rapidly scaled down in the aftermath of communism, as it was a highly politicised behemoth for a small country, but it has never been fully re-equipped and suffers from many logistical and leadership weaknesses. Command is still influenced by the sons of Second World War partisans, most of whom come from the south and have

little instinctive sympathy with Mr Berisha.

General Copani has been Mr Berisha's right-hand man on military matters for the past five years, and has close links with Nato. He comes from the south and is a humane, intelligent man who is unlikely to seek a bloodbath. It is probable that he has been appointed to use his personal authority to bring rebellious southern officers and troops to heel, and to try to get the army to operate as an effective force in the south.

Moreover, if the military is going to become the de facto Government, links with Nato may be vital. Mr Berisha has been seeking German military assistance

since last autumn. General Copani is a tough, impressive man with an independent mind who embodies the old Ottoman proverb: "To the Albanian the pen to the Albanian the sword". His appointment may offer a glint of hope for a reasonably peaceful resolution.

Mr Berisha's hope must be that General Copani can bring unity to a force that otherwise shows every sign of dissolving into antagonistic factions under the pressure of events.

It must remain doubtful, however, whether the military will be capable of maintaining discipline in a prolonged occupation of the rebellious southern towns.

### WORLD SUMMARY

#### US beauty denounced by Sultan

New York: The Sultan of Brunei yesterday attacked "unfounded sensationalist allegations" of a former Miss USA who is suing him in a Los Angeles court (see p. 15).

Sharon Mirketic, 26, claims she was held against her will at the Sultan's palace and expected to live with him in a "party room". She had been promised \$21,000 (£7,500) a week by a Los Angeles talent agency for "promotional work". Lawyers for the Sultan are investigating her story.

#### Plan for jails in mine shafts

Johannesburg: South African prison authorities may convert old mine shafts into jail cells to house the country's growing criminal population, which has reached 124,000, an official said. The proposal led to anger and dismay among human rights activists, who described it as barbaric. The Correctional Services said a committee to look into the issue of housing prisoners underground would be established soon. (AP)

#### Algeria to get election

Paris: Algeria will hold multi-party elections on June 5, the state-run radio said, quoting a presidential statement. The country has been without an elected parliament and local councils since 1992, when a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a huge lead was annulled. About 60,000 people had died in the resulting political violence. (Reuters)

#### Death 'sent' to Haiti children

Miami: Vos BV, of the Netherlands, and its German subsidiary, Heim AG, shipped a death sentence to 11 children of Haiti when tainted sweetener killed hundreds of youngsters. David Mishaal, said in a federal hearing. He is claiming \$100 million (£62 million) for 45 children, many of them dead. (AP)

## British urged to stay away

By TIM JONES

BRITISH businessmen and tourists were yesterday advised by the Foreign Office to put off plans to visit Albania. The British Embassy in the capital, Tirana, was also advising people to register their details.

There are thought to be about 75 British people working in the country and by last night most of them had made their whereabouts known. They are mainly aid workers, business consultants,

teachers and missionaries. Andrew Tesoriere, the British Ambassador, said: "We are advising people they should stay clear of the south of the country or leave it as soon as possible."

He added: "Because of the clampdown in Tirana, the city is calm and people are obeying the curfew. But the situation should not be exaggerated. There are at least two or three flights out of the country every day, so people are not trapped."

At least one man, Colin

Raine, 48, of Bridlington, who is trying to build an orphanage near Tirana for the charity Hope and Homes, says he is determined to stay.

His wife, Barbara, said: "I am obviously concerned for his welfare, but he is the kind of person who will not come home until he sees his work finished."

"When I last spoke to him he said things were getting worse by the hour, but there was not too much he could say over the telephone as he thought it might be bugged."

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# At last, the real clothes show

## LONDON

Beautiful basic clothes for real women are back in fashion, says Iain R. Webb

During London Fashion Week, which ended on Friday evening, one critic described the latest collection by the designer Betty Jackson as "real clothes for real women". What, then, were the luxurious navy reefer jacket by Clements Ribeiro, the sleek, brown skirt suit by Alexander McQueen, or the exquisitely tailored leather trouser suits by Antonio Berardi, if not real clothes?

The autumn/winter 1997 collections featured some really good clothes, but more often than not these fine fashions were obscured by the designer's need to make a statement or give the catwalk show an edgy feel. To be thought of as "edgy" (as in at the cutting edge) is perhaps the ultimate accolade for a designer at present. It implies they are ultra-hip. Sadly, it also means their shows tend to be a bit pretentious or, in several cases, just plain ugly.

What possesses a designer to dress up some of the world's most beautiful women to look as if they have taken part in a "dirty protest" backstage (Berardi); been kept in a freezer for more than a month (Philip Treacy); or have a bloom in their cheeks so rosy it looks as if they have been hit with the vase as well (Jackson)?

At present, the fashion pack is obsessed with all things weird. They shy from the sensible, balk at the becoming and would not be caught dead applauding anything close to commercial.

Yet, more than ever this season, beyond the facade of horror-story hair and make-up and high-drama presentation, London showed that fashion can be enjoyed by everyone. If a nation of women sighed when they read that the mini was back at Miu Miu, then, what the heck, wear the just-below-the-knee pencil skirts by Katharine Hammett. If all you really want to buy next winter is a sweater, make sure it's plum, grey or bottle-green. If you want to update your wardrobe with a new accessory, get a knee-length, high-heel boot (best at Amanda Wakeley by Gina).

There were a few pleasant surprises (in store at the end of August, care of Sonja Nuttall.



Left to right: SONJA NUTTALL: Assured. CLEMENTS RIBEIRO: Sheer delight. ALEXANDER McQUEEN: A soft edge

English Eccentrics, Workers For Freedom and Jean Muir), while designers such as Ben de Lisi and Wakeley continued to make the most of their strong points: fluid cocktail and party dresses in smoky pink, plum, and purple, or luxurious minimalism cut in cream, butter, milk chocolate, grey, and shocking pink respectively. Both designers offered versions of the little black dress.

Design duo Pearce Fionda kept their fans happy with seriously shapely suits and slinky jersey separates, including a sexy double-layer split pencil skirt. Mostly monotone, and with a turban or two thrown in, the collection was made for a movie queen: Norma Desmond.

There was little change from Bella Freud and Jasper Conran — kooky, colourful and eclectic at Freud, while Conran showed his unique brand of grown-up glamour: feathers and leathers.

Nuttall returned with her strongest and most assured collection to date — everything from dove grey or navy windowpane check and pinstripe trouser suits worn with cami-sole tops or ribbed sweaters, to diaphanous metallic rose-print dresses, sometimes tied about the waist with a cashmere scarf. "Basic, beautiful clothes," says Nuttall.

The collections of English



Above: JEAN MUIR: Velour stripes fresh and modern. Left: WFF: Seductive fabrics with oriental overtones. Right: NICOLE FARHI: A trouser suit in plush velvet

Eccentrics (designed by Helen David) and Workers For Freedom were equally exquisite. David offered ultra-soft knits and sumptuous velvets alongside fragile-looking beaded pieces. Best of all was a honey-coloured, short-sleeved roll-neck sweater worn with a long, matching skirt in duchesse satin, all wrapped-up in a sparkling organza shawl. WFF favoured equally seductive fabrics and a vaguely oriental silhouette cut in suede, silk, velvet and geor-

gette, coloured honey, brown, red and pinky hues, plus the obligatory black.

There was a fresh modern mood at Jean Muir — little sweaters worn with knee-length A-line skirts, colourful velour stripes, punched suede, strappy camisole tops teamed with trousers or long skirts, and a neat, boxy leather jacket. Long georgette dresses in navy and black were pure Muir.

Tomasz Staszewski gets better each season — his elegant mix of brocade, satin, fake fur

and leather looked sleeker than ever. At Mulberry, the accent was also on luxury, from the sumptuous sheepskins to a strictly tailored bronze brocade suit or full-length wraparound skirt edged in wine-red velvet.

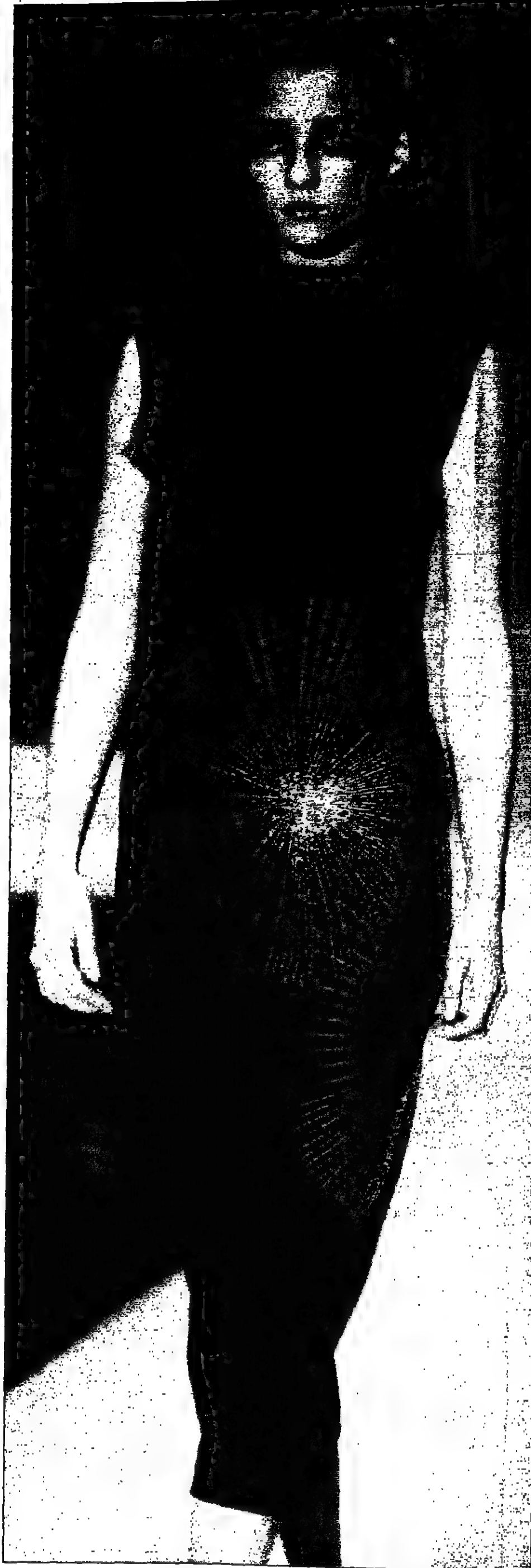
Many designers, including Miu Miu, Nicole Farhi, Betty Jackson, Margaret Howell, Katharine Hammett and Paul Frith, played around with mannish looks mixed with distinctly feminine touches — a wool or tweed coat over a sparkling sheath or a sliver of velvet, sportswear and glamour, leather and lace, sheepskin and sequins. Somewhat surprisingly, sheer is still an option for winter. Come on Mr Frith, get over it!

Berardi and Copperwheat Blundell made much of sexy, hard-edged tailoring, with great leather jackets and second-skin dresses. Berardi added pretty frilly chiffons while Copperwheat Blundell favoured furry fleece.

Knitwear fans will be pleased to see Lainey Keogh and Julien MacDonald on the London schedule. Both spin their own kind of magic with wool — rich and textured at Keogh, lightweight and airy-fairy at MacDonald.

If there was a wish-list this season then three names would be on it: McQueen, Hussein Chalayan and Clements Ribeiro, designers who have broken away from the pack and firmly established their names internationally.

McQueen, for all his histrionics that threaten to cloud his vision, is unique. This season he portrayed the urban jungle



HUSSEIN CHALAYAN: Pure elegance made modern with razor-sharp cutting skills

with a breathtaking mélange of fabrics — sometimes patchworked together on the same outfit.

He starts by softening his tough edge with flowers. Aside from some quite awful "working-girl" looks (stretch denim leggings and Big Bird jackets), this collection screamed success.

It was pure elegance at Chalayan, made modern with his razor-sharp cutting skills. Slick tops and trousers (best in black or smoke blue) were followed by mohair sweater-dresses and stinky jersey col-

umns. His suits (in black or bright red) followed a pencil-slim outline, while his tasselled and beaded evening dresses were the epitome of clean-cut chic. One black jersey dress with a firework starburst design was simply divine. The design duo Suzanne Clements and Ignacio Ribeiro make great clothes that are full of ideas — folksy motifs covered everything from smock dresses to seamen's jackets, while a sheer black shift slipped over a brightly coloured floral dress. Alongside the bolder looks

were stripey knits worn with baggy pants, sleek trouser suits and the smartest daytime mix of a reefer jacket, rollneck sweater and slim below-the-knee skirt. It was a finely tuned collection which showed just why the husband and wife team have won such acclaim.

This season London Fashion Week turned out to be a real treat.

Photographer CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS  
Iain R. Webb is the fashion director of Elle magazine.

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## The McAlpine memoirs: Day Three - Parkinson is thrown to the wolves



Cecil and Ann Parkinson: Margaret Thatcher had told him that there was no need to resign, but advised him to reflect on the effect that carrying on might have on his family

The Parkinson affair surfaced in the summer of 1983. The Prime Minister rang me in Australia to tell me that John Selwyn Gummer was to be appointed to the chairmanship of the party. Gummer was totally different from Parkinson: where Parkinson was open and generous, Gummer was not. He was a politician not in the grand mould of Parkinson, Ridley or Tebbit.

When the party conference came in 1983 it was in Blackpool. Cecil Parkinson, instead of a hero, the winner of a great election victory, went to that conference as if he were a man on trial. Gummer distanced himself and took what could be regarded as the moral high ground. Making no attempt to save Parkinson, he left his colleague to the political wolves. The advantage was to himself. As Gummer's efforts at charming the Conservative Party were puny by comparison with those of Parkinson's, it must have been a matter of some convenience to watch his predecessor come unstuck. It appeared that, as far as Gummer was concerned, Parkinson was about to receive just punishment from God for his adultery.

John Wakeham rallied the whips. In all the years I have attended party conferences, I can't remember one where so many whips took the trouble to come to Blackpool on the day before the conference opening, a day when normally nobody was about except the serried ranks of the press. Sadly, the whips were not there to save Parkinson's career, rather to put an end to it. Michael Spicer set out to try to save him from a ministerial resignation. Gummer took Spicer's actions extremely badly and began to regale him and myself with a litany of all the awful things that Ann Parkinson had said about Spicer. As there was nothing that

## An invitation to a hanging

## THE PARKINSON AFFAIR

Confessions of  
THATCHER'S  
BAGMAN

Ann Parkinson could say or do that would make Spicer dislike her more than he disliked John Gummer, these words fell on deaf ears. As Michael Spicer and the Parkinsons were exceptionally close friends, I was shocked that Gummer should repeat the contents of what was obviously a desperate outburst by Ann Parkinson delivered in a private conversation at a time when she was under immense pressure. It was clear to me that the purpose of repeating that conversation was to alienate Michael Spicer from the Parkinsons.

Much later, when John Major came to power, I warned him, in print, that he should not put his trust in Gummer. "He is," I wrote, "not the sort of person that you would risk going for a walk with in St James's Park, let alone the jungle." Gummer has begun to wither on the ministerial vine. Feeding his small daughter with hamburgers during a BSE scare, along with his general sanctimonious air will surely, in time, do for him.

The first evening of the conference, I gave a party as usual and Parkinson was there. He had made a good

impression on the press. He was to speak at the conference the next day. The hall was electric with excitement; the organ tinkled: it was as if we waited for a wedding. This was going to be one of those moments that those habitués of party conferences wait for and discuss for years afterwards. Cecil made his entrance. There was polite clapping where there should have been ecstatic applause. This man had, after all, devised a strategy that had won for his audience an election. The speech was of average quality, perfectly respectable and, considering the circumstances, downright brilliant. At the end the applause was at first supportive, but the chairman did not rise from his

seat nor continue clapping. The Conservative activists took their cue from John Selwyn Gummer: his was the party line. It was not a wedding that they had waited for, but a trial and as they left they wondered at what time would be the hanging.

Again that evening I gave a party for the senior figures of the media. Cecil and Ann Parkinson came and Cecil almost enjoyed himself. I felt terribly sorry for Ann. It was getting late, so Ann took him to their room. Half an hour later, Ann appeared in deep distress. The Times had rung through the text of Sara Keay's letter that they would publish the next day. Ann, Shirley Oxburgh and I went up to Cecil's bedroom, a small room at the back of the hotel. There followed the most extraordinary human drama that I have ever witnessed.

First, Robin Butler came with a message from the Prime Minister. Cecil was not to worry about the Times article: they would discuss it in the morning. Earlier, Margaret Thatcher had told Cecil that there was no need to resign, but advised him to

reflect on the effect that carrying on might have on his family.

Cecil and Ann prepared for bed. Shirley Oxburgh and I offered to leave. They both insisted that we stay and, as they bustled themselves changing into their night clothes, they kept up a dialogue, he expressing his love for her and the fear that she might leave. "I love you. I could never manage without you," he kept repeating. Ann refreshed and reread the problems of the day. Their small room was walled with mirrors, the images of the two of them were everywhere I looked. Robin Butler had brought whisky and pills and soon both Ann and Cecil were asleep. We had arranged to meet early the next day. By then, however, it was all over. John Cole, the BBC's political editor, had rung Cecil shortly after Sam. Unfortunately, the hotel switchboard put him straight through. Cecil had told the BBC that he would resign. That morning was frantic. Michael Portillo, Cecil's PPS, looked after him as best he could. The telephone kept ringing: the press was going mad.

I was angry at what to me was a gross injustice and I was surprised at the vicious cat fight that had occurred among colleagues, the way they had set about Cecil Parkinson as though he was a wounded animal and they, the rest of the pack. The conference finished that afternoon and tomorrow was another day. Parkinson did recover his career, but it was never the same. I visited him the day he took up his post as the Secretary of State for Energy. He sat at his desk in his Millbank office. He was signing papers. I drinking champagne. "I am giving away thousands of pounds," he said. I inquired what he meant. "These are resignations from my directorships," he said, pointing at the pile of letters. Parkinson was back on a ministerial salary.

## 'What was meant as an act of kindness cost a life'

Most of the summer of 1984 I spent in Australia, returning for the party conference. I gave a party and my suite was packed with journalists and politicians, businessmen and party officials. It was nearly 2.30am before the party ended.

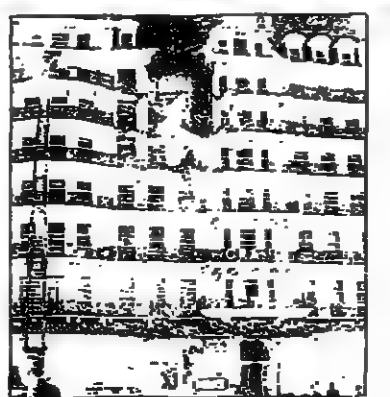
I had, when I was deputy chairman, got into the habit of going around the ground floor of the conference hotel to see that all was quiet. I set out to do this at about 2.30am. On the stairs I met Anthony Berry returning from walking his two dogs. We gossiped for a while.

In the normal course of events, Tony Berry would not have had a room in the centre of the Grand Hotel, except for two coincidences. Tony had been involved in a charge of drink-driving. By chance, Lord King was vacating his room early as he had to return to London on business. Tony Berry was given Lord King's room. What was meant as an act of kindness cost Tony his life. After I had talked with Tony Berry, I decided not to go downstairs as was

my normal habit. I returned to my room and went to bed. I awoke on hearing a loud explosion. My bed was covered in plaster, the room full of dust. I switched on the lights and they worked. I looked out of the window to see the floodlights illuminating a huge cloud of dust.

My first thoughts were of immense relief. Those of us close to the leadership of the party had suspected that this would happen sooner or later. Now the attack had been made and I had survived. I looked out into the hotel's passage, a part of which seemed to have disappeared. I gathered together Richard Ryder, who was totally dazed having been in a deep sleep, and Michael Spicer, who had been in the bath. Out through the bathroom window we went, intending to go down the fire escape. Coming up that fire escape, however, was a group of hysterical Spanish women. We managed to turn around this stampeding herd of Spaniards

## THE BRIGHTON BOMBING



The Grand Hotel in Brighton

and sent them all in the right direction. Out in the street, I ran around the hotel to the front. I was among the first to get there. The street was deserted except for the police.

At first sight, the Grand Hotel stood there as if nothing had hap-

pened to it. Its facade was illuminated by yellow floodlights, a cloud of yellow dust hanging in the air. Then I could see that right in the centre of the hotel's facade was a hole starting at the second floor and extending for several storeys. Out of the hotel came the most terrible cries. The sight and sounds will never leave me.

I hurried to the Metropole, a new hotel not far from the Grand. There we set up a party headquarters. Many people were of the opinion that the conference should close. Margaret Thatcher had been taken from the Grand to secure premises not far away. There had, however, been a hitch as she was leaving. First the police sent out of the hotel a double, in case there were marksmen hiding near by. A head was seen to rise over a parapet. Margaret Thatcher's departure was delayed.

Among the many problems of opening that conference on time the following morning was that most of

the hierarchy of the party had nothing to wear. We had to get them clothes, and quickly, and we decided the answer was to open Marks & Spencer as early as possible. I had, with a number of other people, found my way to Edward du Cann's rather grand suite in the Metropole. I used his telephone to ring Marks & Spencer's head office.

I spread the word among Brighton's taxi drivers that anyone without clothes was to be brought to M&S. I would, I told them, settle the fares. Luckily I had a considerable amount of cash on me. Standing outside the Marks & Spencer store, I waited for the first taxis and soon they came thick and fast. Inside, clothes were found for all those who needed them. I am proud to say that they never looked smarter. The £10,000 bill was paid by Central Office. It was quite illuminating afterwards to note which members of the party and the Government asked to pay for their new clothes and which members let the matter pass.

## Do you pay the cleaner in guilt?

Domestic work is no more 'them and us' than any other employment

I suppose it shouldn't come as a surprise that the number of people in domestic employment has risen over the past five years: after all, with more and more working couples, somebody's got to keep house. Consequently — as a new survey by the GMB union shows — the total has grown by 16 per cent, going from 142,000 people in domestic work to 166,000.

I doubt these figures are accurate: the real numbers must be much, much higher. After all, cleaners and domestics tend to work for cash and are highly unlikely to be giving their details to the man or woman from the GMB union. But even the official figures alarm the union's leader, John Edmonds. They indicate to him that we are living in an "us and them" age.

Mr Edmonds clearly thinks domestic work is demeaning, but surely he must see that it is that very belief which insults those who clean for a living. I would agree that domestic workers are routinely exploited and underpaid by their employers, but from what I can gather it is cleaning work in the public sector or large institutions that is the most exploitative and underpaid.

I have in the past employed people as cleaners who have also worked in hospitals (NHS and private): there, the conditions are worse and so is the pay. Cleaners tend to be treated as a job-lot of skivvies, interchangeable and expendable: their employers have little regard for them individually and indeed may not, probably don't, know their names.

Cleaning work is necessary work, for those who do the cleaning as well as those for whom they do it. Without wishing to sound too worthy, I'd say that it is essential that such work is respected. And I don't believe it can be respected if employing a cleaner must be a guilty secret. I would be surprised if cleaners didn't come in to clear up after the offices of the GMB: does Mr Edmonds feel bad about this?

If he does, he would be rare among men. For the most part, men seem unperturbed about paying someone else to clean up after them (they seem pretty unperturbed about not paying someone to clear up after them, for that matter). It is women who feel ashamed about it. And I think men have got it right here: for surely we shouldn't feel embarrassed about paying someone to do a job, provided we pay them properly.

Those who feel the worst are probably the ones most likely to pay badly. After all, if you think there is something inherently shameful about paying someone to clean, that it is an act of slovenliness and extravagance, then the more you curb that "extravagance" the better you'll feel. If you can justify having someone in because it doesn't cost that much, or because you can congratulate yourself on finding a

bargain, I'm afraid it doesn't make you a very good employer.

I think most women do feel guilty about employing a cleaner though, and at least it benefits the cleaner if the guilt spurs you on to pay over the going rate. (It would be better if a minimum wage existed, so that employees weren't dependent on the whim of an employer's nature.) But the guilt itself must be annoying for the cleaner.

I have worked as a cleaner (I was a chambermaid in Italy between school and university) and I never minded the work, provided I was allowed to get on with it. Admittedly, it wasn't for life, and I don't pretend it was that or starvation — but it was the only job I could get at the time and I was happy to do it.

Most of us, though, have an irritating habit of apologising before asking someone to clean an oven or



Nigella Lawson

iron a shirt. We feel we should be doing it ourselves, or that the cleaner is thinking we're despicable slavers for not. But I expect the cleaner would much rather we paid her properly, treated her with respect and thanked her for her work, rather than apologised for it. It is a discourtesy, apart from anything else, to make her feel that the very employment you're asking her to undertake is an insult.

Perhaps an element of guilt is inevitable: after all, one is paying someone to do the jobs one can't bear to do oneself. And domestic employment is bound to be a sensitive area, because in the home one doesn't have the distancing, neutralising structures of office and professional life. The relationship is more intimate and the notion of giving orders or exercising authority — even if neither is ever expressed as such — jars.

The reality is, of course, that cleaning work is no more "us and them" than any form of employment: there is always the person who pays and the person who is paid.

Evelyn Waugh had in *Scoop* a revolutionary who shouted at waiters in restaurants because the usual obsequies maintained the iniquities of the class system. I can't help feeling that union leaders who inveigh against those who employ domestics are behaving in much the same way.

## TOMORROW

## Christmas at Chequers



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## Alan Coren



What's got eight limbs, all-round vision and goes for a spin in safety?

You have to hand it to Reed Personnel Services. Quite what it is you have to hand to them, mind, must remain a matter of personal choice: some of you may wish to send them a big bunch of daisies, others may prefer to foot the bill for a major shrink, not a few may feel that the kindest act would be to leave a Luger on Reed's desk with one valedictory cartridge up the spout, but whichever each chooses, all must surely agree that, in recognition of their latest corking wheeze, the nation's top recruitment honchos deserve everything they get.

They have already got much. They have got 1,000 new ideas for the next government. Since this is rather more than 1,000 times the number of new ideas possessed by any of the parties currently begging to form that government, you are entitled to ask where Reed got all these new ideas from; the answer is from 38,000 Britons they recently mailed, thereby tapping a vein of amateur political inventiveness to such hitherto unexplored depths that the professional one has been exposed as the thymotic item it is, so clogged with clogs as to betray even the most restrained back into extended metaphors he can scarce control. And also to leave him spoilt for choice: ought I address myself to the suggestion that all MPs, before being allowed into the chamber, should be breathalysed, ought I consider the wisdom of offering free martial arts lessons to OAPs, ought I to confute the two and envisage that joyous day when 659 drunks forced to moom the Commons forecourt are set upon by mobs of kung-fu granaries incensed by the House's failure to — a third new idea, this — provide them with free fresh fish? None of these, I plump today for a yet more radical notion, not only because it addresses what Reed identifies as a prime area of concern (roads), but also because its wondrous wackiness invites me to trump it with a new idea of my own far more likely to mitigate that concern.

The Reed-borne idea is to fit a pointed steel spike to the centre of every steering wheel, thus ensuring road safety by persuading motorists to drive everywhere very slowly, to avoid ending up *en brochette*. Now, knowing drivers as I do, I could conclude only that this idea must have been sent in by an undertaker, so at once began working on mine. Call it idea 1,001. It is, admittedly, a longer-term solution than the spike, but this in no way diminishes its electoral clout, because, for the next few weeks, the idea is all that counts, and mine is unquestionably one whose time has come.

For this is a genetic time, so the solution to our gravest worry must surely be not to destroy unsafe motorists, but to create safe ones. And the reason motorists are unsafe is that man was originally designed to move at a top speed of 15mph, for which two eyes, four limbs, slow reflexes, and frangible bones were perfectly adequate; if he crashed into another man, each got up, shook himself, and trotted on. But when man invented a tin box empowering him to move at ten times his natural speed, his natural kit proved to be so unfitted to cope with this that he began killing himself and his kind in unpleased new ways. Man, it turned out, was not made right. The solution, therefore, lies in his genes.

Or will. His genes must be tinkered with. Man needs three limbs for the pedals, two for the wheel, one for the gearstick, one for the car-phone, and one to lash out at off-spring distracting him from behind. He also needs eyes both in the back of his head and on either side of it, a body able to be hurled through the air without injury, and reflexes keyed to split-second evasive action, in any direction. Also, it wouldn't hurt if, on top of all this, he had a mouth programmed to snap up any intruding fly dumb enough to buzz hazily across his vision.

Yes, you have twigged. I am talking about the arachnid gene: rush the Spider Bill through on May 2, and within a generation, only those able to show the examiner they can read eight number-plates simultaneously and run up the MOT wall will be granted a licence. As to which party will triumph with this little winner, who can say, but Reed's think-tank must be delighted that, for once, Lord Sutch is in there with a chance.

Peter Brookes  
5th 97



A FRESH LOOK AT YOUTH CRIME

## Two faces of Englishness

However different, the squire and the sybarite were both defenders of excellence

Two men of my acquaintance were laid to rest last week. Family and friends gathered at the respective churches. Eulogies were delivered on happy lives and successful careers. England bade farewell to its sons with due ceremony.

The two could not have been less alike. One was a Cavalier, the other a Roundhead, one an Anglican, the other a Dissenter, one a Tory, the other never. Drape the one in a Union Jack and he would cheer; the other would groan. Both would term themselves middle-class, but the contrast between them was almost Disraelian, "inhabitants of different planets, formed by different breeding, fed by different food, ordered by different manners". Yet both were English, indeed together they were the warp and woof of Englishness. One was Sir Joshua Rowley Bt, late Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk. The other was Christopher Driver, late of *The Guardian*.

Sir Joshua was the 7th Baronet, of Tendring in the county of Suffolk. He began his career at Eton, Cambridge and the Grenadiers. His rubicund face and jovial smile used to beam down the dinner tables of Suffolk, down which Rowleys had beamed since the 18th century. Though descended from admirals, Rowley followed his father into the Guards. He served in Africa and Italy and was captured by the Germans. After the Army, he married a viscount's daughter and settled down as squire, farmer and county grandee. Suffolk landscape was his life and his love, low hills and wide valleys, hedges and spinneys, guns and dogs, half-timbered, claret and Constable. Rowley worked with (squires do not work for) the National Trust, and rose to be chairman of Suffolk County Council. He had an East Anglian's care for money, but was no philistine. He collected books and pictures and wore his culture with an easy charm.

The family once shared with Poles, Bacons and Greaves a suzerainty over southern Suffolk. They formed the refrain to "Froggie would a wooing go", an otherwise obscure reference to the four families as "Rowley, Poley, Gammon and Spinach". The Rowley seat was Tendring Hall at Stoke-by-Nayland, built by John Scare in 1784 for a Rowley ancestor. The house decayed and was sadly demolished in the 1960s. Sir Joshua regretted its demolition and committed himself through the National Trust to saving such houses in future.

He held onto the Tendring land with its sumptuous views over Dedham Vale. Restoring Stoke church was a life's work and he was buried last week in the shadow of its great tower. A grave could ask for no finer guardian.

In days when local government was as proud a service in England as it still is in the rest of Europe, Rowley ran Suffolk. To him, politics was the ordering of land, service to parish and county, and to the Crown through the lord-lieutenancy. London for Rowley was Purdeys, Pratt's and the MCC. Parliament was for younger sons, tradesmen and oddballs. Real men ran counties.

This was the politics that the Thatcher-Major Conservative Party has torn apart. Inspectors, directors and John Gummery were sent to tell Sir Joshua Rowley and his successors that they could not be trusted to fix so much as a penny rate. Mr Gummery knew better than a Rowley what was good for Suffolk. Rowley's face on this subject was pure Colonel Blimp. The smile froze, the eyes bulged, the red of the cheeks darkened and the veins appeared ready to burst.

Rowley was a conservative but not a pessimist. He was sure that Suffolk would survive the assaults of London politicians, as the National Trust would survive its "confounded bureaucrats". But conserving Suffolk was a perpetual battle. It needed the commitment of those who knew buildings and land, who felt an obligation to those who worked them. It needed local autonomy, money and a fear of God. Above all it needed people like Rowley.

I wonder how Christopher Driver would have described Rowley. Driver was the son of a Nonconformist doctor-missionary in south India. His parents had money enough to see him through a similar educational mill to Rowley's. He went to the Dragon School, was head boy of Rugby and read Greats at Christ Church. Yet as Cambridge could not

divert Rowley from his paternal course, nor could Oxford divert Driver. Not for him the Grenadiers but, as a conscientious objector, the Friends Ambulance Service, followed by the news desk of the *Liverpool Daily Post*. Not for him the deputy secretaryship of the National Trust, but the editorship of *The Good Food Guide*. Driver was, as Bill Webb recalled in last week's *Guardian*, "a Christian with mandarin tastes, a serious sybarite and a bit of a snob".

I venture that only an English reader could fully appreciate the nuance of epigrams applied half-admiringly to Driver that would be offensive applied to Rowley. The gulf is not cultural, and is only partly social. No war, politics, business or profession was likely to bring these two together.

Rowley's rural Toryism would have been anathema to Driver's urban radicalism, and vice versa. Driver's career began with that colonial service of left-wing journalism, a sojourn on a northern newspaper. But he soon returned to his natural habitat in Highgate, where his family played quartets and worshipped at what is now the United Reformed Church. The nearest he came to business was maintaining his father's antiquarian bookshop in Dorset.

The apex of Driver's career was his controversial editorship of *The Good Food Guide* in 1970-82. He was chosen by his predecessor, Raymond Postgate, as much for his radicalism and classical education as for his culinary skill. The *Guide* was a "herbivore" reaction to the awfulness of British cooking in the 1950s. It savaged bad food camouflaged by flashy presentation, and was duly detected by big hotels and *haute cuisine*.

I once dined with Driver at the new Inigo Jones restaurant, surrounded by stained glass and piped Mozart. He sat bearded in his tweed jacket and red tie at a side table to which his appearance had consigned him. He spent the meal wrestling with an imperious waiter who constantly tried to remove his bread roll. If Sir Joshua Rowley's food was the

roast beef of old England, albeit served with a noble Pomerol, Driver's was steamed brill and mangrove. His fall-back was chicken korma with saffron nan; he lauded the Chinese and Indians for bolstering English catering through its darkest post-war years. But when the Young Turks of the bistros graduated to smart restaurants in the 1970s, Driver was attacked as a killjoy. He gave not an inch, deriding his critics as "a branch of showbusiness". Eventually, *The Guardian* claimed him back, to bring a unique elegance to writing about food. His book *The British at Table 1940-1980* is a masterpiece of sardonic prose.

Driver's town pursuits were as varied as Rowley's country ones. He wrote on the Free Churches, Schubert, universities, CND and poetry. Some Englishmen wear incorruptibility on their sleeves. Driver would have been a preacher in Cromwell's New Model Army, had he not been a pacifist. That his integrity was dedicated to, of all things, restaurant cooking may seem eccentric. But like the best intellectuals, Driver was "silent in seven languages". He would have murmured as he perused another menu, "God is in the details".

Perhaps I can find here a final meeting of the ways. In my last conversation with Rowley, I recall his fixation with "getting the countryside right". This was not a matter of balancing subsidies, of conceding a housing estate here or a bypass there. Rural England required faith, and faith without shortcuts. If Dedham Vale could not sustain a way of life, it would simply be "The Constable Experience". Social and natural ecology were indivisible. The landscape would not conserve itself. To Sir Joshua, this was today's noblesse oblige.

Rowley would have cried Amen to Driver's *Times* obituary. It recalled his acerbity towards all who wrote a sloppy word or served a heavy sauce. "He was not inclined to reassure those who betrayed their calling by letting standards slip," it said. For him, standards were equally a well-judged soufflé or a well-timed royal visit. For both men, attention to detail was a token of excellence. In their divergent walks of life, both saw that excellence threatened and desperately sought of defence.

As of last week, the ranks of the defenders are depleted by two.

Simon Jenkins

## Billy boy

PRESIDENT Clinton should have thought twice the other night before he went to see the musical *Chicago* at a New York theatre with his wife. Not only is the show of a raunchy nature, with plenty of bosomy showgirls and frolicksome dance routines, but one of the songs, delivered by doe-eyed beauties in garters and busiers, runs "We want Billy — give us Billy!" At this, all eyes in the theatre turned to Clinton, who very obviously started to stroke Hillary's arm.

Moments later, a character on stage gave a line which talked about what women of dubious morals will "touch for a deuce". Someone at the back of the auditorium shouted "Paula Jones!" — the woman suing Clinton for alleged gross indecency some years ago — which caused a ripple of giggles. The President, fast becoming embarrassed, kissed Mrs Clinton on the head.

When it came to another line in the show which runs "whatever happened to pure ethics?", fellow audience members were in the desperate stages of laughter-control, stuffing hankies in their mouths, holding their noses against the pressure of rising

mirth, and dabbing tissues at tear-dampened eyes. Even the chorus girls were having a hard time not corpaing. It may be some time before the Clintons risk another trip to a Broadway show.

Pre-election tension is mounting at Referendum Party headquarters in Horseferry Road, where the managing director, Malcolm Glenn, has confiscated



"To turn me Tory they'd have to marry off Ted Heath!"

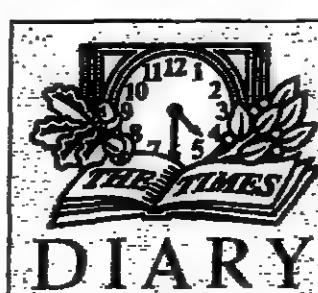
the staff-room television. It was meant to be used for watching the news, but Glenn snapped when he found his troops lounging around, gripped by a programme about the fathers of prostitutes.

### Early fears

POLITICAL documentary-maker Michael Cockerell has a new hero. Preparing to lecture at the National Film Theatre tomorrow about politics and broadcasting over the century, Cockerell came across Cecil Hepworth, who arranged the first "kinematograph interviews" with leading politicians, back in the First World War.

In 1916, he was planning to film a meeting of Lloyd George's Cabinet, but when the story leaked out, his arrangements had to be cancelled. He wrote: "The Cabinet feared ridicule: how the people of a few years hence will laugh at the dignity which was afraid of being sullied by contact with the 'kinematograph'." Cockerell knows exactly what he meant.

There were sharp words yesterday when the Foreign Secretary met the Burmese Ambassador to London, U Win Aung. Malcolm Rifkind had been reluctant to meet a representative of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the fendishly anti-democratic military junta running Burma. "Good luck in your elections Mr Rifkind," said U Win Aung as he left. "And good luck in your elections," said Rifkind. "If you ever decide to hold them," U Win Aung, you lose some.



NUDE dancers brightened up the English National Opera's terrific new production of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* (at under an hour and a half it is ideal for those who regard opera as an inconvenience between drinks and dinner). Tastefully choreographed by the American Martha Clark, the dancers, who also perform clothed, strip off as Orpheus roves through the Elysian fields in search of his dead lover.

Sadly, they declined to pose for publicity photographs. They left

it was one thing to dance naked for artistic reasons appropriate to the scene," explained a spokesman, "but quite another to do it for still photographs which might end up who knows where."

### Seating plan

FOR all their dark reputation, the Tory whips have a soft, giving side, as they showed yesterday when they found some spare tickets for the party of Ben Chapman, the new Labour MP for Wirral South, who arrived to take his seat. Ten members of the family and friends came to see Chapman installed, and the Labour whips did not have enough tickets for them all to sit in the Strangers' Gallery. Labour's men approached Murdoch Maclean, the private secretary to Alastair Goodlad, the Tory chief whip, who rustled up two spare tickets, despite the drubbing Chapman gave the Conservatives last week. "We would have done the same," says an ungrateful Labour whip.

### Yapping

ONE of Governor Chris Patten's two Norfolk terriers has had a close escape from Hong Kong's "Bowen Road dog poisoner". Writing in the *South China Morning*



Lavender with half a drink

Post, Patten's wife Lavender recounts how she was walking the dogs, Whisky and Soda, along a popular trail when Whisky snapped up a piece of chicken. It was later found to be soaked in an insecticide-style poison.

Whisky survived, writes Mrs Patten, but other pets have not been so lucky. She suggests owners muzzle their pets, urges passers-by to watch for any suspicious behaviour in the area, and concludes: "Who knows, one day a child may be affected."

P-H-S

## A united states of the euro?

America's founders show the way, says

Gary L McDowell

Malcolm Rifkind's speech in Paris this week laid bare the deepest issue in the debate over EU and the push for monetary union: Britain's continued independence and the future of the nation-state. No doubt his speech will do little to quiet the snarling and snapping, but he at least has history on his side, as even the most cursory glance at the original American debate over federalism reveals.

Many of the questions now being raised in Britain were at issue during the creation of the United States Constitution in 1787-88. The concerns that led the Americans to draft their new Constitution, like those that have led Europe towards greater integration, were economic and trade. The sovereignty of the federated states under the Articles of Confederation (America's first Constitution) was not conducive to the kind of co-operation that a union of states has to have to encourage commerce. To remedy this, the states resolved to meet and reach agreements on how best to unite in order better to serve their common interests. As various efforts failed to produce the needed agreements, they were eventually driven to what became the Constitutional Convention of 1787, at which more far-reaching decisions were taken and the nature of the confederation was drastically changed.

A key element of this transformation dealt with the power to coin money, regulate its value, and to establish the value of foreign currency. The American founders understood, as the great jurist Blackstone had said, that the "coining of money is in all states the act of the sovereign power". Under the Articles of Confederation, the states had held with the central authority a concurrent power to coin money. The failure to give the national authority complete power in this area was deemed by many, as James Madison put it, "a material omission" in that early Constitution.

In the US Constitution ultimately ratified in 1788, this problem was addressed in two provisions. The first empowered the newly created Congress to exercise the power "to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin". At the same time, this new and strongly national document unambiguously prohibited such powers from being exercised by the several states: "No state shall ... coin money; emit bills of credit; make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts." State sovereignty would never be the same.

The logic that had led to this was powerful and ultimately convincing. The great objectives sought by the confederation could not be achieved under its existing, decentralised forms of governance. There had to be something beyond the sum of the parts, and that had to be a true government with power sufficient to make the several constituent states abide by the decisions made at the national level. Part of the reason the early Americans moved in this direction was that the states had not conducted themselves well. There had been a plethora of noxious legislation at the state level, ranging from the abolition of debts to what the founders derided as the "rage for paper money". The result had been laws detrimental to the rights of property and of individuals. If the young commercial republic was to succeed and prosper, the old confederation simply had to give way.

Parallels are tricky, often appearing to be more apt than they are. But one cannot help noticing in the American experience traces of theoretical concerns that are much the same in the current debate over European monetary union and whether Britain should take part. On the one hand, it is not unreasonable to suggest that a single currency would greatly facilitate trade within a market that is truly common. But on the other hand, it is equally clear that the power to coin money is an essential part of sovereignty, and to cede so fundamental a power would indeed strike at the very heart of British independence. Those who doubt the soundness of a single currency for that reason may well find in the American experience lessons that suggest even greater caution.

This is because the deepest lesson to be drawn from America's founding debates goes beyond the particular concerns such as the power to coin money. What the creation of the American republic shows is that confederations rarely work. The most theoretically sophisticated of these early Americans was Madison, who prepared for the Constitutional Convention by steeping himself in the histories of previous confederacies. His conclusion was that the centrifugal pull of member states is almost always too strong, and that there was rarely to be found anything beyond the sum of the parts. The ultimate solution to the ills of the confederal form was to transcend it and move towards a more unconsolidated national government.

If Madison was right, if there is always a deficiency to be found in confederations, then the implications for the debate in Britain over a single currency are even more profound, because there will be a gradual movement towards greater integration at the expense of the sovereignty of the member nations. This will all be done in the name of expediency, arguing that such a movement is nothing more than the drawing out of the implications of the original agreement. Such clear examples of the diminution of sovereignty as monetary union will, if undertaken, be looked back upon as the first step towards something very different from a mere confederation for purposes of trade.





## JOHN AND BRIAN

The Tories need to become the party of one message

Another day, another relaunch. John Major's decision to face a phone-in programme on Radio 5 Live was doubtless designed to seize the initiative. As so often in the past, he offered a solid performance but was obliged to excuse the latest embarrassment caused by his colleagues. Stephen Dorrell's indiscretion has been read as a reflection of his own ambition to lead the Tories. If so, Mr Major should take some comfort: it means that the occupant of Number Ten is currently heading only the second most improbable campaign in British politics.

With, at most, eight weeks until election day arrives there are clear limits on what the Conservatives can do to alter their fate. The imprint of 18 years in power is not one that spin-doctors can eradicate. No seismic shift in the personality or leadership style of the Prime Minister can be credibly created. Nor, in truth, could policy positions be dramatically recreated. Even on Europe and the single currency, where party strategists rightly yearn to take a much tougher line than the Chancellor will permit, a sudden change at this stage is extremely unlikely and would risk of insincerity if it came.

The Conservatives' best hope lies in linking their two strongest cards: the state of the economy and public uncertainty about new Labour. They can still argue that better times would be badly threatened by a change of government. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, despite a prolonged and laudable effort on their part, have not yet convinced voters that the economy is safe in their hands. The same polls that show the Tories trailing by 20 points also reveal real fears of higher taxes, spending and interest rates if Labour win. The latest Conservative poster blitz — "Tony and Bill" — may be so crude as to undermine its own effectiveness. But it is located in the right territory.

If the coming contest is solely centred on the question of who can best protect the prosperity Britain has recently enjoyed, therein lies the Tories' one slim chance. Almost any discussion of different issues is a

distraction that will ultimately benefit Mr Blair. The whole Cabinet has to stick to that single script without deviation. Labour will doubtless claim with indignation that this constitutes the most negative approach in political history. All that matters for Mr Major is that it might be effective.

That message itself is more important than the messengers. Nevertheless, prospects would be improved if the Prime Minister stood squarely and publicly behind his party chairman. The purported election roles of Lord Cranborne, Sarah Hogg and Jonathan Hill has allowed, perhaps unfairly, an unflattering comparison with the famously factional 1987 campaign to develop. The position of Michael Heseltine as the main media frontman adds a further element of uncertainty. The 35-year-old William Hague would be better placed than the Deputy Prime Minister to dispute the Labour charge that it is time for a change.

Brian Mawhinney may well lack warmth and personal charm. But the staff he has selected at Smith Square are strikingly superior to those of five years ago. His party conference last year was an unexpected success. The "New Labour, New Danger" advertising effort may have been controversial but it was also distinctive. Government performance, not party presentation, has been the problem that persistently handicaps the Conservatives. Mr Major has already been through three Central Office supremos in this Parliament. He should strive to reinforce the current one.

There is no point in Conservatives wishing for a campaign that will not happen. Like it or not, their record, leader, and core policies are all fixed. The search for some extra magic element will add only confusion and not clarity. Instead the party of One Nation needs to become the party of one message. Conservative Central Office has operated on that principle for some time. If ministers cannot, or will not, manage that, then they might as well go back to their constituencies and prepare for opposition.

## ALBANIA'S PRESS

Freedom of speech must be restored — and fast

One of the most important indications that Sali Berisha was leading Albania towards a more open and democratic society was his tolerance of a pluralist press. And one of the most depressing aspects of his response to the turmoil now engulfing the country was his immediate censorship of all news media, the blackout in the transmission of satellite television pictures from Tirana and the ban on foreign journalists travelling outside the capital. The authoritarian response, learnt during 45 years of isolation and dictatorship, cast doubt on President Berisha's commitment to press freedom and pluralist democracy, which are the foundations of all the European political, military and economic organisations Albania aspires to join.

The immediate outcry in the West appears to have forced the Albanians to think again. The Foreign Ministry now says that the press restrictions, promulgated in the state of emergency, do not apply to foreign news organisations. Television pictures may again be broadcast from Albania. The heavy-handed turning back of journalists at police blocks on roads leading out of Tirana has been replaced with official "advice" that travel in the south was unsafe.

There has been no let-up, however, in the restrictions on local media. Indeed, the most sinister development has been the increasing intimidation, not only of the press but of all opposition activists. Behaving with the same ruthlessness that made Enver Hoxha's secret police among the most hated in any dictatorship, Shik plainclothes thugs have been threatening foreign and domestic journalists, smashing their cars and inciting

crowds to turn on those suspected of reporting the violence. Under the cover of darkness and curfew, Shik agents have set fire to newspaper buildings. No wonder more than half the population now listen to the BBC to try to find out what is going on.

The Albanian Government accuses foreign journalists of inciting violence. To impute such a motive betrays a feeble grasp of impartial reporting, a concept that had no meaning in Albania's postwar history and is, clearly, still deeply suspect, especially to Mr Berisha. It is not likely to become clearer to him now. Violence has fed on the attention it has drawn to the protesters' grievances, he must. Former Communists, opportunists and criminals have taken advantage of the popular anger, and copycat looting and burning has quickly led to anarchy. Ancient tribal enmities between the Tosks in the north, where Mr Berisha draws his support, and the Ghegs in the south, where Hoxha came from, are also now a factor.

Mr Berisha is still the elected leader, although his wooden, surreal re-election on Monday by parliamentary acclaim had all the pretence of an old-style dictatorship. The ultimatum to the rioters and armed gangs now roaming the south to hand over their weapons is justified, though hopes of restraint by the police and army are probably not. The cost of the upheaval is already incalculable, and Albania's stumbling attempts to escape grinding poverty will be set back years. Democracy is staggering in Europe's poorest country. If it is not to be stifled altogether, free voices must be restored to print and the airwaves.

## MURDER MOST LITERARY

The Times helps to teach the tricks of a noble trade

It was a dark and stormy night: just as the oldest and best thrillers start. Nevertheless, last night hundreds turned out for a debate on the art of literary murder. They could easily have stayed at home beside the fire, snatching at the pages to find out how a down-and-out dossier came to starve to death in the wealthy architect's garage, although there was plenty of food within reach. Instead, they chose to brave the storms for *The Times* Dillons forum on the subtle art of contemporary crime writing.

Why? Partly they represented the modern hunger for live and public entertainment instead of the broadcast and private kind. Some were attracted by the celebrity of the speakers. Colin Dexter is the eagle of the trade, broadcast far beyond the reading pub-trade, by his *Inspector Morse* on television. Minette Walters is the eagle, whose psychodrama about the case of the hungry tramp stands fourth on the bestseller list. But a number came to learn how to do the trick themselves. Write-it-yourself courses are now extremely popular, and a useful extra source of income for those who have proved publicly that they can write and, better still, get themselves published.

Ever since Sherlock Holmes, Englishmen have been born with a detective story fixed to their umbilical cords. Ever since Miss Marple, Englishwomen have been even better at the native genre. And crime writing should be easier to teach than other sorts. Much crime writing is formulaic. Readers

like it that way, as familiar as old slippers. They want their surprises in the plot, not in the manner or the mannerism of the writing.

One virtue of the detective story is that it is a comfortable solace, a sort of mental knitting where it does not matter much if you drop a stitch. The readers of a mystery story want to get to the end of it, to find out what happened to the dossier. The readers of a Dickens or Henry James story wish that it might never end. They read a Dickens or James story six times because they know it so well. They read a detective story six times because they can forget its ending six times.

Of course, crime writing comes in many covers, from the old-fashioned detective story, with a body in the garage and a solution, to the thud and blunder of American cops and the nightmare shores of Rendellian psychosis. But crime writing has to be professional and well-crafted. The field is crowded. The best thrillers perform the honourable old function of keeping the pages turning. The crime story is an extension of the fairytale and the older myth. It is melodrama so camouflaged as to create the illusion that the story being told, however improbable, could be true. Some tricks can be taught. Perhaps Minette Walters and Colin Dexter brought on some new talent last night. The new crime writers will also need lively imaginations and considerable skill with words, never forgetting the doggedness to apply bottom to chair until the daily quota is written.

## McAlpine memoir taken to task

From Baroness Falkender

Sir, May I comment upon the extract about myself from Alastair McAlpine's "knock-about" memoirs, which appears in *The Times* today.

At no time in 1970, or before or since, have I asked to see senior Tory advisers to offer them advice. I have never asked to see advisers to any political leader of any party to offer advice. That is not what happened.

I simply accepted an invitation from Lord Hanson to have drinks at the home of two of his closest friends and colleagues — who were my friends too. Political advisers often receive invitations in this way. Harold Wilson, for whom I was still working, strongly urged me to accept since he always hoped that more might be learned then and later about the background to the very nasty stories circulating at that time, culminating in the *Spycatcher* outpourings and continued to this day. On that particular occasion there were exchanges about those stories in particular as well as the political scene in general.

My views were in any case well known at the time. I was involved in a series of articles for the *London Evening News* during the election period, so what I thought was public knowledge.

The Labour Party did not refuse to pay my salary in 1974. They had never paid my salary at any time, either then, before, or after. They were never asked to do so, and had they offered the offer would have been refused.

It is no revelation that I "was very taken with the idea of having a woman prime minister". It was public knowledge at that time from articles, interviews, and elsewhere that I found the idea very interesting indeed. A large number of women, both in the Labour Party and elsewhere shared that interest. Indeed, more recently Mr Blair himself has gone further and expressed qualified admiration for Margaret Thatcher. In 1975, only two of Harold Wilson's immediate circle, namely Peter Shore and myself, had felt that it would be difficult if not impossible for Labour to win against a woman Prime Minister. We were right. And that was without the *Winter of Discontent* and a badly chosen election date.

As to my alleged "contempt... for the people who ran the Labour Party", referred to by Alastair, it was not "incredible". It was non-existent. I have often been saddened and disillusioned by the disloyalty and desertion in politics — on all sides — but contemptuous never, for that is a bitter and unhealthy characteristic and politics is a rough trade.

Alastair is a very intelligent, funny and gregarious fellow, with many friends and admirers, and it is always interesting and enjoyable to be in his company. I have known him since the first visited Downing Street during the 1974-76 period, when he even half-jokingly suggested, after meeting Harold Wilson, that he felt he, Alastair, ought to join Labour. But like us all, he has now in his doctage, unaware of the agendas of others, taken to living in his own private bubble where perhaps all is not exactly as he perceived it to be.

Yours sincerely,  
MARIA FALKENDER,  
3 Wyndham Mews,  
Upper Montagu Street, W1.  
March 3.

## No joking matter

From Dr Ioan Bowen Rees

Sir, In my days at school and university in England the Welsh were worshipped for their superior state education, their classlessness, their progressive politics, their singing and their sport.

It strikes me that the derision described by Jan Morris (letter, *St David's Day*) dates largely from the time, some 18 years ago, when the Welsh voted against having their own elected assembly. A nation which lacks the backbone for a democratic forum of its own is bound to become a laughing stock amongst yobs.

Later this year, we shall probably have an opportunity to redeem ourselves in another referendum. This time let us bear in mind that thousands of the English refugees who have managed to escape to a more community-minded Wales will be helping to stiffen our democratic resolve.

Yours faithfully,  
IOAN BOWEN REES,  
Tal-Sarn, Llanllechid,  
Bangor, Gwynedd,  
March 2.

## Joe Orton papers

From Mr John Nye

Sir, Have the Orton family considered photographing the playwright's papers (Diary, March 14) Leicester and an American university might then both be able to benefit.

This thought first occurred to me at the time our literary gave so much to the Churchill family for papers, the value of which to scholars is surely in the content.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN NYE,  
21 Court Road,  
Lumbridge Wells, Kent,  
March 3.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Politics of hope: personal liberty v traditional morality

From Professor David Conway

Sir, In the extracts which you published last week from his book, *The Politics of Hope* (February 22-25), Rabbi Jonathan Sacks contends that much of the sorry state of civic life in Britain today can be attributed to the displacement of traditional Judeo-Christian morality by the abstract secular individualism brought into prominence by the Enlightenment. A more secure and convivial social order, he argues, would follow the reinstatement of these values at the heart of public life and morality.

Not so, argues Rabbi David Goldberg (letter, February 27). The Judeo-Christian tradition was hardly an all-embracing value system. Its ideal form of government was a theocracy. Principles we take for granted, like democracy, freedom of belief, equality of the sexes, are a result of the Enlightenment, not the Judeo-Christian tradition.

One can understand such an objection being advanced by a secularist. When voiced by someone professing to stand within the tradition, they are truly astonishing. How can any self-professed Jew or Christian, let alone a rabbi (however liberal), take exception to theocracy as a political ideal?

Every week on the Sabbath, when putting away the scrolls of the Pentateuch after reading from them their weekly portion, Jews throughout the world call upon God to "return unto the ten thousands of the thousands of Israel" and "renew our days as of old". What is this but a plea for God to send his promised messiah, or anointed, to restore the Israelite theocracy and thereby usher in an age of everlasting peace and justice?

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID CONWAY  
(Head of School of Philosophy and Religious Studies),  
Middlesex University,  
White Hart Lane, N17,  
March 3.

## From Mr David Selbourne

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Dr Sacks's road to Salem", March 1) accuses the Chief Rabbi of "moral hysteria" for his observations on our civic condition. Yet he himself employs the most fevered of images and the most violent of terms with which to denounce Dr Sacks for his (rather anodyne) moral proposals.

For all Jenkins's bluster, no civic order can rest upon a notion of liberty which, in the name of protecting

"democracy" from "moral totalitarianism", offers little more than a beggar-my-neighbour ideal of personal self-realisation through unimpeded freedom of action.

We certainly do not want the peddling of vacuous moral politics in personal crusades and the rest of it, which have more to do with self-promotion and the search for honour than any worthy motive. But we equally do not want the amorality which suggests that every general moral principle is, almost by definition, "authoritarian" and the individual who espouses it a "fundamentalist" or "totalitarian".

By Jenkins's route we come not to witches' trials in Salem but to that state of nature described by Hobbes in which "every man has a right to all things [and] to do whatever he listeth to whom he listeth". We cannot have a moral free-for-all, disguised as "freedom", and a civic society together.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID SELBOURNE,  
United Oxford & Cambridge  
University Club,  
71 Pall Mall, SW1,  
March 2.

## From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, Jonathan Sacks's "politics of hope" is full of good intentions but also full of bad arguments. As Simon Jenkins points out today, virtually all his factual and theoretical claims are open to obvious objections.

It is especially futile to attempt the rehabilitation of the Judeo-Christian tradition, when its origins are so dubious and its effects so ambiguous, and when so many of our most precious values (humanity, rationality and secularism; liberty, equality and fraternity; reciprocity, democracy and solidarity) arose before or outside or after it.

It is also ultimately fatuous to devalue the Enlightenment and secular humanism, when they share so many of Jonathan Sacks's own aims and provide so much more bases for them. As he said himself (February 21) he worked with Hugo Gryn in spite of rather than because of their religion, "for the sake of their common humanity". That is our best hope.

Yours etc,  
NICOLAS WALTER,  
Rationalist Press Association,  
88 Islington High Street, N1,  
March 1.

## A ban on Burma

From the General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and others

Sir, According to the British Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, discussions at the Asia-Europe ministerial meeting in Singapore on February 15 "reflected the seriousness" of the deteriorating human-rights situation in Burma.

Why then does the international community, the EU included, fail to take even limited punitive action against Burma's ruling military dictatorship?

Burma looks set to enjoy a welcome into the Association of South East Asian Nations this year, whilst the EU appears to be dragging its heels over the Commission's recommendation on December 18 that it withdraw preferential market access for Burmese industrial goods because of Burma's

systematic use of forced labour, including child labour.

Approval of the proposal by EU foreign ministers was expected at the General Affairs Council meeting on February 24. The vote has now been postponed until March 24 at the earliest.

Withdrawal of trade privileges is a vital first step, for which there can be no acceptable delay. We urge the EU to send this clear message to Burma's ruling generals on the need for urgent reform.

Yours truly,  
BILL JORDAN  
(General Secretary, ICFTU),  
GLENYS KINNOCK,  
DENIS MACSHANE,  
YVETTE MAHON  
(Co-ordinator),  
The Burma Action Group UK,  
Collins Studios,  
Collins Yard, Islington Green, N1,  
February 26.

many people who do not qualify for legal aid, leaving a huge number of people who are denied access to justice.

The Law Society has not conducted research on these disenfranchised litigants. It should do so. Surely today there are no good reasons why a litigant is prevented from coming to an arrangement with a third party to assist in the financing of litigation. Indeed many of us are in favour of promoting a scheme whereby the investor takes a share of the damages. If all parties are properly and independently advised, why shouldn't this be allowed? It would at least give an opportunity of justice to those who presently cannot afford it.

Yours sincerely,  
RHORY ROBERTSON  
(Solicitor),  
Sweepstone Walsh,  
9 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2,  
February 28.

mar, feels that recording theatre for television "merely reminds you how artificial theatre is". This may be because he was watching a hybrid creature — recorded over two nights in front of an invited audience, using six cameras and radio microphones. However, we believe that by using acoustic microphones and fewer cameras concealed among an audience — visible, audible and whose response clearly affects the pace and intensity of a performance — the Theatre Museum more authentically reflects the original theatrical event. Of course, we are not recording for television.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET BENTON,  
Head, Theatre Museum,  
16 Tavistock Street, WC2,  
February 28.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

From the Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral

Sir, Simon Jenkins's polemic against Dr Sacks polarises where there is no need. The Chief Rabbi's commitment to the power of social and religious institutions need not be at odds with democracy: nor need Simon Jenkins's concern for individual freedoms be at odds with the renewal of those institutions and communities.

Caricatures of the Enlightenment usually lie behind such false alternatives. The authority it gave to individual moral reasoning is either pilloried as the precursor to all modern ills of moral anarchy and social fragmentation — or else it is lauded as the great liberator from social and religious oppression.

The debate also feeds on the fear these false polarities evoke. We are either heading inexorably towards total post-modern disintegration — or we are being pulled back to some form of social, moral or even religious authoritarianism.

There is no doubt the debate itself is important, and I trust *The Times* will keep it high on its agenda. But we must keep our balance within it. We badly need a renewal of our Judeo-Christian moral and social inheritance: but we also need its interaction with the best fruits of the Enlightenment legacy.

Our current social and political malaise is serious enough to merit sharp judgement. But false polemic merely makes matters worse.

Yours faithfully,  
VERNON WHITE,  
Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral,  
The Chancery,  
11 Minister Yard, Lincoln,  
March 3.

## From Ms Judith Da Fano

Sir, In the interest of making life more liberal, perhaps Dr David Goldberg, Senior Rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue (letter, February 27), could try to do a very small thing which might produce a great change for Jewish women: stop men thanking God every day in their prayers that they are born men.

Yours faithfully,  
JUDITH DA FANO  
(Grand-daughter of a  
former Chief Rabbi of Milan),  
Laburnum House, Main Street,  
Milnthorpe, Cumbria,  
February 27.

## Bishop's moves

From the Reverend Andrew de Berry

Sir, Is it not ironic that the day after the Bishop of Birmingham publicly urged a black woman priest, the Reverend Eve Pitts, to quit her post as vicar, he announces his engagement to be married to a divorcee (reports, March 3 and 4)?

In choosing to marry a divorcee the bishop is involving himself in an action which, were he contemplating entering the Church as an ordinand, would until recently have debarred him from admission to holy orders. Yet he requests the resignation of Mrs Pitts, despite having acknowledged her as "a talented pastor".

Yours respectfully,  
ANDREW DE BERRY,  
The Vicarage,  
Southwell Road,  
Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire,  
March 4.

## Flying tackle

From Mr William Wright

Sir, The Reverend Julian Sullivan offers the peregrine as a more suitable bird name for Asda's rival to the Penguin biscuit (letter, March 3).

I feel sure that Penguin's lawyers would feel that the cuckoo's behaviour make it a far more appropriate beast.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL WRIGHT,  
5 Annington Road, East Finchley, N2,  
March 3.

## Fighting days

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, It was a brilliant journalistic coup on your part to report yesterday the fight between two Eton boys, which was conducted over 60 rounds and lasted two hours while the contestants and the many Etonians who watched them drank large quantities of brandy; the proceedings ending only when the smaller of the two contestants, aged 15, dropped down dead.

It was no less of a coup to report the events which took place at the same time, when a Harrow tradesman sought protection from magistrates from 150 boys of Harrow School, who had already demolished part of his home and threatened to murder him and his son because he had complained to the headmaster.

It is true that these happenings occurred 172 years ago, but ought you to have tucked them away in small print under the heading "On This Day"? Ought they not to have been given suitable prominence alongside the latest pronouncement on law and order by Mr Michael Howard or his Dolly-like clone, Mr Jack Straw?

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK HOWARTH,  
Flat 2, Pencarrow,  
The Avenue, Sherborne, Dorset,  
March 4.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
March 4: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Hon. Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

March 4: The Prince Edward, Trustee, this morning held a meeting of the Trustees' Working Committee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation at Buckingham Palace.

March 4: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, later visited Rita Kariniemi, Devonshire Mews, London W4.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
March 4: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
March 4: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Parkinson's Disease Society, later visited the Head-quarters at 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception in aid of Marriage Care at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, London EC2.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
March 4: Princess Alexandra, Patron, attended a Service of Thanksgiving and Re-dedication for the Centenary of the King's Fund in St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London WC2.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will open the new Edinburgh Royal Albert Hall, Trusts Care of the Elderly unit at Ferryfield House, Edinburgh, at 11.00, and as Patron of the Mordun Foundation, will preside at the Reital Lecture at Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, at 12.30. Later, as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend an English Symphony Orchestra concert by courtesy of Severn Trent at St James's Palace at 7.00.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the Automobile Association, will attend a committee meeting at Norfolk House, Basingstoke, at 9.00am.

Princess Alexandra, as Patron of Home-Start, will visit the Kingston scheme, 132 Kingston Road, New Malden, at 2.30.

## Receptions

**New College**  
Mr Michael Morris, Deputy Speaker, was the host at a reception held last night at the House of Commons on behalf of Dr S. Martin Gaskell, Director of New College, Northampton, and Chairman of the Standing Conference.

**Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra**  
Mr Robin Hay, Chairman of the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra, gave a reception last night at the Barbican Centre before the orchestra's 25th anniversary concert.

## Lecture

**Glasgow's Company**  
Ms Wendy Evans delivered the annual lecture of the Glasgow Company last night at Glasgow's Hall. Later, Mr Malcolm Tosh, Master, accompanied by the Wardens, received livermen and their guests at a reception and supper.

## Today's birthdays

The Hon David Astor, CH, 85; Lady Elizabeth Black, Extra Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 89; the Right Rev Thomas Butler, Bishop of Leicester, 57; Admiral Sir Simon Cassels, 69; the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, 70.

Mr Jim Dowd, MP, 46; Earl Grey, 58; Mr Anthony Hedges, composer, 60; Archbishop Bruno Heim, former Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 80; Mr R.A.E. Herbert, former president, Royal Horticultural Society, 63; Mr Richard Hickox,

## Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prizes were announced yesterday:

**£100,000:** 62AZ 312752, winner has a holding of £19,971 and comes from Cumbria; 60GF 732578, £5,500, West Midlands; 12CZ 863341, £20,000, West Yorkshire; 20VB 279333, £1,082, Surrey.

**£50,000:** 50K 739151, £85, Nottinghamshire; 15JK 869885, £10,000, Derbyshire; 5TP 922672, £7,651, Oxfordshire; 57FL 755552, £10,200, Buckinghamshire; 39VN 160728, £19,700, Southwark, south London; 62LK 625239, £17,890, East Sussex; 14YK 613008, £15,446, Lancashire; 38FZ 346455, £14,100, Warrackshire; 27WL 191937, £3,018, Hampshire.

**£25,000:** 24VP 430705, £11,045, West Midlands; 48DB 216071, £19,829, Hertfordshire; 34PS 534088, £19,999, Oxfordshire; 27EN 726175, £3,400, West Yorkshire; 32VW 524288, £20,000, Merioneth; 10AB 487554, £2,006, Avon; 40QN 332751, £10,060, Gwent; 40NP 813728, £11,318, Surrey; 20TF 046436, £1,030, Staffordshire; 39LT 913275, £20,000, Dorset; 51QS 333830, £10,000, Staffordshire; 63LP 982467, £20,000, Hampshire; 20YB 742467, £2,223, Kent; 15NP 162625, £20,000, Camden, London; 25MF 383459, £20,000, Surrey; 36KL 249991, £12,650, Devon.

## Luncheon

**Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**  
Mr Stephen Day, MP, and Mr Dennis Turner, MP, Joint Vice-Chairmen of the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, were the hosts at a luncheon at the House of Commons yesterday to welcome Commonwealth Parliamentarians attending the 1997 seminar at Westminster.

## Vandals attack tomb that inspired phone box design

## Masterpiece by Sir John Soane is desecrated

By DAVID ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A GEM of architectural design, the 1816 marble mausoleum of Sir John Soane, one of Britain's greatest architects, has been vandalised. Thieves entered the north London churchyard near St Pancras station, stole slender Ionic columns that were an integral part of the design and destroyed some of the original balustrading.

The mausoleum with its distinctive curved canopy supported on four Ionic columns is one of Soane's most ravishing designs. Such is its importance, it is believed to be one of only two Grade I listed tombs in London. Its distinctive shape is now well known as it inspired Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's original telephone box of the 1920s.

"It's a masterpiece," said Christopher Woodward, assistant curator of the Sir John Soane's Museum, which is based in the 1812 house that Soane designed and left to the nation at his death in 1837. He said that the stolen columns — each about a metre high — are not immediately identifiable as Soane's work and could therefore be sold relatively easily.

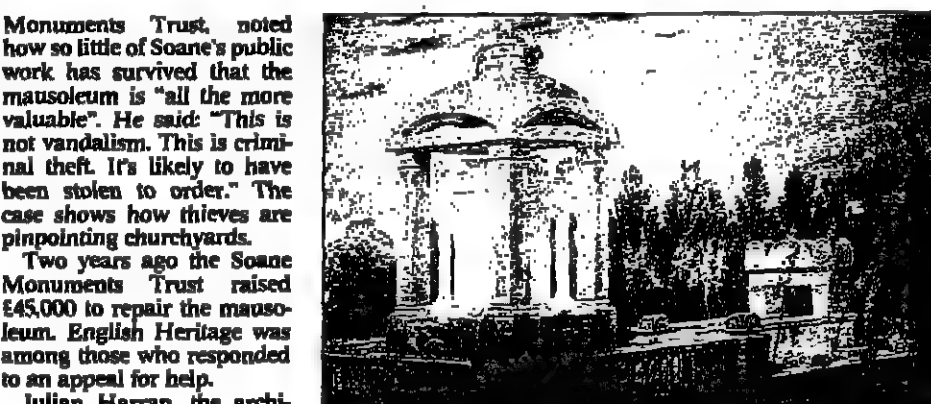
Soane's best known public commissions were the Bank of England, on which he worked between 1788 and 1833 but which was almost entirely rebuilt in the 1920s; additions to the Houses of Parliament and government offices on Whitehall, destroyed either by fire or the Victorians, who had different tastes; and the Dulwich Picture Gallery, whose original 1812 design survives.

For Soane, however, the mausoleum was a perfect vehicle for letting his Romantic imagination run wild: its lines did not have to be interrupted by any practical requirements such as plumbing or lighting.

Stefan Buzas, an architect and trustee of the Soane



Ionic inner columns have been stolen from the mausoleum; below, how it was



Monuments Trust, noted how little of Soane's public work has survived that the mausoleum is "all the more valuable". He said: "This is not vandalism. This is criminal theft. It's likely to have been stolen to order." The case shows how thieves are pin-pointing churchyards.

Two years ago the Soane Monuments Trust raised £45,000 to repair the mausoleum. English Heritage was among those who responded to an appeal for help.

Julian Harrap, the architect who restored the monument, said: "It had been looking beautiful. This leads us to be even more disappointed that Soane's monument, which is intended to encapsulate his life after

death, should have been assaulted in this brutalising way. It's the destruction of the original fabric that is so distressing."

The Soane's Museum in

Lincoln's Inn Fields has 50 drawings in which Soane worked out the design, preparing it for his wife who died in 1815. Soane himself was buried there in 1837.

## Dinners

**Royal Pharmaceutical Society**  
of Great Britain  
Mr Ian Caldwell, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, was the chair at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street. Baroness Robson of Kildonnan also spoke. Mr Gordon Oakes, MP, Sir John Hannam, MP, the President of the Royal College of Physicians, the President of the College of Optometrists, the President of the Institute of Health Service Management and the Chairman of NAAHT were among the guests.

**Royal Society of St George**  
The High Commissioner for New Zealand was the guest of honour at a dinner of the Westminster branch of the Royal Society of St George held last night at New Zealand House. The Lord Mayor of Westminster, accompanied by the Lady Mayors, was the guest speaker. Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, president, and Mr

Robert M Sewell, chairman, also spoke.

**London Goodenough Trust**  
for Overseas Graduates  
Lady French, Governor of the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, and Mr John McCready, Deputy Director, received the guests at the annual Law Faculty dinner held last night at Mecklenburgh Square. Lord Goff of Chicheley, FBA, was the guest speaker.

**RAF Club Dining Society**  
Mr Rupert Allason, MP, was the guest of honour at a dinner of the RAF Club Dining Society held at the club on Monday.

## University news

**Defence**  
Professor Robert John Weston Evans, Fellow of Brasenose College, to be Regius Professor of Modern History in succession to Professor Sir John Elliott.

**Hayes**  
Vicky on 2nd March peacefully after an inspirational life. Loving wife of Peter and devoted mother to Cathryn, Edward and Oliver. Private cremation. Thanking family and friends for their support. Burial at St. Mary's Church, Hayes, 11.30am.

**HOOG**  
On 2nd March 1997, Henry Edward Hoog at 97. Family friends only please. Burial at St. Mary's Church, Hayes, 11.30am.

**EPSTEIN**  
Lillian Louise, dearly loved mother of Norman and Isabella, died suddenly in London on March 2nd 1997. She will be missed. Private cremation. Burial at St. Mary's Church, Hayes, 11.30am.

**CRANE**  
On March 1st, Margaret aged 88 of Sway, Dorset, died peacefully at home. Burial at St. Mary's Church, Hayes, 11.30am.

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## Inns of Court School of Law

1996-97 Bar Vocational Course  
Early Result: Pass List  
In alphabetical order

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## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr J.C.M. Atty and Miss F.F. Johnson**  
The engagement is announced between James, only son of the late Christopher Atty and of Janet Atty, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, and Fiona, only daughter of Mrs Sheila Johnson, of Alesley Village, West Midlands.

**Mr J.R.M. Bore and Miss S.J. Williamson**  
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr H.F. Bore and of Mrs Michael Bore, of The Marly, Llandudno, and Samantha, only daughter of Mr Patrick Williamson, of Paphos, Cyprus, and Mrs Paula Williamson, of Dulwich, London.

**Mr S.A. Barry and Miss C.W. Hancock**  
The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Mrs Rosemary Barry, of Eton, Berkshire, and the late Mr Ian Hancock, of Eton, Berkshire, and Mrs John Hancock, of Offham, Kent.

**Mr E.W.G. Collis and Miss E.L. Bhar**  
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robin Collis, of Plaistow, West Sussex, and Louise, daughter of Mr Harnham Bhar, of Lonsdale Island, Virginia, and Mrs Caroline Bhar, of London.

**Mr S.R.W. Davies and Miss C.E. Ashley**  
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs W. Davies, of Fildesworth, West Sussex, and Christine, daughter of Mr B. Ashley and Mrs V. Jeans-Jacobson, of Marlborough, Wiltshire.

**Mr S.M.C. Dowdy and Miss R.F. Wusala**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Dowdy, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Rachel, eldest daughter of His Honour and Mrs Brian Woods, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

**Mr H.C. Grindling and Miss C.A. Chapman**  
The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Mr and Mrs C.H. Grindling, of Houslow, East Sussex, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.R. Chapman, of Madrid, Spain.

**Mr W.J. Hague, MP, and Miss F.L.J. Jenkins**  
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Hague, of Rotherham, Yorkshire, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Emrys Jenkins, of Cardiff.

**Mr J.F. Harwood and Miss S.J. Blaxham**  
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Dr H.F. Harwood and the late Mrs Harwood, of Carshalton, Surrey, and Sarah, only daughter of Mrs S. Blaxham and the late Mr S. Blaxham, of Wimbledon, London.

**Mr D.W.E. Johnstone and Miss L.K. Astill**  
The engagement is announced between Dominic, elder son of Mr D.W.E. Johnstone, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Mr Keith Johnstone, and Lucy, only daughter of the late Mr Timothy Preston Astill, OBE, LL.B., FRPPharmS, and of Mrs Ingrid Astill, also of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

**Mr E.P. Keams and Miss N.J. Morphet**  
The engagement is announced between Edmund, younger son of Dr J.L. and Dr B. Keams, of Ealing, London, and Natalie Jane, younger daughter of Mr D.M. Morphet, of Leamington, Cornwall, and Mrs Ingrid Morphet, of Upper Norwood, London.

**Mr S.D.W. Leather and Miss C.T. Barrow**  
The engagement is announced between Simon David William, only son of Mr and Mrs D.M. Leather, of London, and Clare Theresa, daughter of the late Virginia Burton and of Mr and Mrs M.J. Burton, of Blackheath.

**Mr S.J. Long and Mrs R.H. Bullock**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs C.H. Long, of London, and Jane, widow of Richard Bullock, of Hawling, Gloucestershire.

**Mr A.R. Vaughan-Martin and Miss F.J. Munro**  
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OBITUARIES

# SIR MARTIN FURNIVAL JONES

Sir Martin Furnival Jones, CBE, Director-General of MIS from 1965 to 1972, died on March 3 aged 84. He was born on May 7, 1912.

Martin Furnival Jones was head of MIS at a time when Russian spies were not only supposed to be under everyone's bed but also in the Cabinet and in Parliament. It was a period of rampant paranoia, and Furnival Jones, though not a conspiracy theorist himself, had the job of sifting reality from wild rumour.

He was a quiet, shy, pipe-smoking birdwatching enthusiast who cared for the image of the Security Service under his leadership, while caring little for his personal image. Indeed, one of the benefits of being MIS Director-General in the 1960s and 1970s was that he could remain an anonymous figure. He would not have relished the higher profile attached today to the head of the intelligence and security services.

During his term as director-general, the lengthy inquiries that had been held into the possible penetration of MIS by the Russian Intelligence Service came to a head. The main suspicion of the investigators on the so-called Euzen Committee fell on Furnival Jones's immediate predecessor, Sir Roger Hollis.

It was a painful time for Furnival Jones. He was a friend of Hollis and was convinced of his innocence. However, he felt it was right to authorise a full investigation, for fear of being accused of a cover-up. The subsequent investigation found no evidence that Hollis had been a traitor.

Edward Martin Furnival Jones was born in High Barnet, a son of Edward Furnival Jones, one time President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. He was educated at Highgate School, from where he won an exhibition to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He read modern and medieval languages, and then law.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1937 and practised with the



firm of Slaughter & May. On the outbreak of war, he joined the Army and was commissioned in the Intelligence Corps in 1940. The following year he was attached to MIS, serving in the War Office and later in the Counter-Intelligence Division of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEP).

He was mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the United States Bronze Star for his work at SHAEP. He ended the war as a lieutenant-colonel and in 1946 he joined the permanent staff of the Security Service, where he remained until his retirement in 1972.

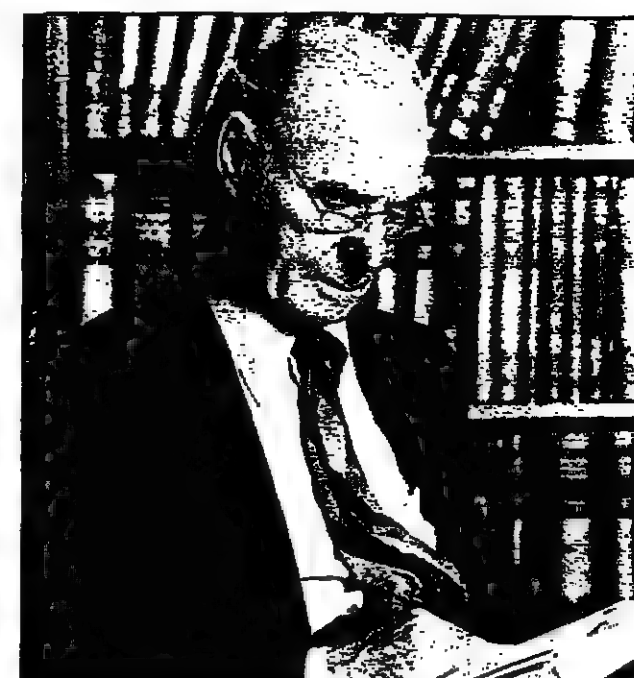
During the war he had developed a reputation for a penetrating mind. In the early years of his MIS career, he worked in protective security; in 1958 he took charge of the counter-espionage branch. In 1963 he was appointed deputy director-general and succeeded Hollis at the head of MIS in 1965. He was appointed CBE in 1957 and knighted in 1967.

As director-general, Furnival Jones ordered the secret investigation into allegations by Soviet and Czech defectors — notably, Anatoli Golitsyn and Josef Prolik — that the Wilson Government had been penetrated by the KGB in the late 1960s and early 1970s. However, no evidence was found of any Soviet penetration of the Labour hierarchy.

This investigation had no connection with the subsequent alleged dirty tricks campaign against the Labour leadership by extreme right-wing members of the Security Service and an alleged plot to overthrow the Wilson Government, involving a number of senior figures, mostly military, who feared that the country was lapsing into chaos. The press baron Cecil King was alleged to be the prime mover in a plan which apparently envisaged Lord Mountbatten's serving as the head of an alternative government once the Wilson administration had been ousted. Furnival Jones is thought to have warned the then Home Secretary, James Callaghan, giving him the names of those in the

# PROFESSOR FRANK LLEWELLYN-JONES

Frank Llewellyn-Jones, CBE, Principal of University College, Swansea, 1965-74, died on February 3 aged 89. He was born in Penarth, Glamorgan, on September 30, 1907.



A CULTURED Welshman and a scientist of distinction, Frank Llewellyn-Jones was the pre-eminent authority on the physics of electrified gases and on electrical contact phenomena. On these subjects he published five textbooks and more than seventy original scientific papers, all written with great style and clarity.

From an early age he showed scientific leanings and a propensity for building electrical and mechanical devices — crystal wireless sets and model railways. From West Monmouth School he went to Merton College, Oxford, to read physics. He took a first in 1929 and was awarded a research scholarship. As Senior Demonstrator in the Wykeham Physics Department he researched with Sir John Townsend at the Clarendon Laboratory. Thus began his work on spectroscopy, ionisation and the electrical breakdown of gases.

These interests he continued on his appointment as a lecturer at University College, Swansea, in 1932. He also devoted himself to a heavy lecture load across the full spectrum of physics during one of its most exciting periods of upheaval and conceptual changes.

His war years were spent at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, concentrating on resolving problems of spark-plug ignition and erosion at magneto contacts in aircraft engines. At the time these were problems which seriously limited flying time between essential servicing.

This war work, and his studies of ionisation and plasma phenomena, were the foundations on which he built two internationally renowned research schools on his return to Swansea in 1945 as profes-

sor and head of the department of physics. Under his dynamic leadership the department became the focus of international collaboration with visiting scientists and scholars from all quarters.

He had a deep concern for students' wellbeing and was a marvellous teacher, via superb if somewhat haphazard lectures. He was quite unable to stick to lecture notes, however carefully prepared. He would cast them aside after a few words and launch into an extempore treatment of abstract topics which held his classes enthralled. Note-taking was impossible but they got the message.

He was Dean of Science, Vice-Principal and Principal at Swansea and was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, 1969-71. Among the many extra-academic offices he held, he was chief regional scientific adviser for civil defence in South Wales, part-time director of the South Wales group of British Steel and served on the Council for Wales and Monmouthshire, chairing its central advisory committee for education which was ahead of its time in pinpointing the shortage of graduates entering teaching.

Courteous and gentlemanly, Llewellyn-Jones was a sensitive and sometimes vulnerable person. He combined intellect with humanity. Direct and often impatient, he was ready to face unpopularity in support of what he considered right. He had the irritating habit of being right on major issues of principle and policy, his expression of which often made unwelcome news to the Establishment.

He was appointed CBE in 1965.

In retirement he found time to pursue his interests in the history of naval warfare, industrial archaeology, gardening (growing exquisite grapes), ornithology, his 1930s Talbot car and above all to indulge in his passion for railways and steam locomotives. He possessed a superb model railway which he largely built himself. He was a stout defender of the Central Wales Line, under threat of closure, and a thorn in the side of opponents of rail transport.

His first wife, Ellen, whom he married in 1938, and his daughter, Anne, predeceased him and he is survived by his son David, Professor of Physics at Leicester University, and his second wife, Gwendolen.

# LORD CHELMER

Lord Chelmer, MC, TD, chairman of the national executive committee of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, 1957-65, died on March 3 aged 82. He was born on October 9, 1914.

AS CHAIRMAN of the executive committee and later as joint party treasurer Eric Edwards (from 1963, when he was made a life peer, Lord Chelmer) wielded considerable behind-the-scenes power in the Conservative Party for a number of years in the 1950s and 1960s. He was one of the most effective figures in the voluntary section of the party.

When Harold Macmillan

resigned as Prime Minister in 1963, Chelmer was one of a small group who for a week played a key role until Lord Home (who immediately renounced his peerage to become Sir Alec Douglas-Home) was appointed Prime Minister. It was to be the last time a Tory leader emerged by what used to be known as "the customary processes of consultation" in the days before leadership elections.

Macmillan called for the views of MPs, peers and constituency associations to be brought to his hospital bed. Chelmer and Dame Margaret Shepherd, that year's chairman of the National Union, working independently of the other two groups as instruct-

ed, had charge of sounding out the views of the grassroots Tories in the constituencies.

They told Macmillan that the result was split down the middle. Rab Butler had won the country constituencies (virtually all Tory) and Quintin Hogg (who had abandoned his peerage too, in hopes of gaining the premiership) had taken the cities, towns and urban areas (mostly Labour and with a lot of marginals). They went on to explain that on a purely constituency count Hogg was well ahead as there were more urban than rural constituencies. The reception of the news was cool. This surprised Chelmer because, talking to Macmillan a short time earlier, he had had the

distinct impression that he favoured Hogg to succeed him. Chelmer left the hospital feeling that some new plot was afoot.

He did not have long to wait. Next day he was telephoned by Sidney Cooke, secretary of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, to say that the party wanted him to go and see the Foreign Secretary, Lord Home. In the 1930s Home had suffered badly from spinal tuberculosis, and there were still anxieties about his health. Arriving at the Foreign Office, Chelmer had hardly time to put his query before Home told him that he had been to see his doctor that morning, that he had been

given a clean bill of health and that he felt ready for any role the party wished him to fulfil. No more was said.

But, despite his central role in the events of 1963, Chelmer's main service to the party was as a money-raiser. In his 12 years as joint party treasurer. He had the gift of explaining to businessmen and industrialists why politics and good government were essential to their businesses.

With the help of the 1st Lord Poole, then deputy party chairman, he modernised the constituency network of contributions. Each constituency was given a quota of money to be sent to Central Office each year, based on the Tory vote at the last general election. The plan got off to a slow start, until Chelmer got the inspired notion that each constituency's quota — alongside what it had actually paid — should be printed in the annual party conference handbook. It always amused him, the day before conference opened, to watch journalists going carefully through the figures in order to locate the constituency of any prominent Cabinet minister that had only paid a part of its quota, or none at all. The trick worked wonders. Some constituencies, especially those with prominent MPs, started paying double or treble the amount of their quota.

Eric Cyril Boyd Edwards was educated at Reigate. He wanted to go to Cambridge, his ambition being a place in the Diplomatic Service. But his father and grandfather persuaded him to become a lawyer first. At London University he took an LL.B, qualified as a solicitor, and joined the family firm. Weekends were spent learning to be a soldier with the Essex Yeomanry, or crewing on his father's ocean racer. The possibility of entry into the Diplomatic Service dropped out of sight. Within two years the country was at war.

During the war he served with the Essex Yeomanry and the Royal Artillery. He was on the beaches soon after D-Day, won a Military Cross and was a lieutenant-colonel at 30. Back in civilian life and the family law practice he kept up his connection with the Essex Yeomanry, becoming its commanding officer, 1945-46.



the Chelmer report of 1970-71, reforming and updating the selection processes for parliamentary candidates and streamlining constituency organisations.

Chelmer was also one of the first to foresee the loss of Conservative seats in Scotland and the need to do something about it. He went on tours to Scotland asking for closer ties with Central Office in constituency organisations, enabling such things as the channelling of money to Scottish constituencies. It did not make any headway. After being created a life peer in 1963, he attended the House of Lords for some thirty years without ever making a maiden speech. It had earlier become an unwritten rule that the party's treasurers should not speak in Parliament to avoid inadvertently giving any impression that anything said could be connected with political fundraising.

As well as practising as a lawyer for fifty years, Chelmer was chairman of several companies, including Provident Investment and Greycoat Estates. He always gave the impression of being untrussed, and he gave generously of his time to an array of activities that interested him, including the Musicians' Benevolent Fund and the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust.

When he gave up ocean racing he sailed and raced more modestly off Burnham with a series of racing catamarans.

He is survived by his wife Enid, whom he married in 1939, and by his son.

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## One regulator would stop crossed wires

Walk down the corridors of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington DC and find yourself staring into the open-door hearing room. A mini-courtroom drama is in progress — a bench of quasi-judges, rapt audience, lawyers, all intent on the contest of the day: cable rates, radio and television licences, satellite broadcasts, dial-a-porn telephone lines.

Strong voices in Britain are calling for a counterpart to what the United States gave itself in 1934: a single agency to regulate telecommunications and broadcasting together. If Britain had an FCC, or Ofcom, as some would call it, our overlapping tangle of regulators could be eliminated. Ofcom, the independent Television Commission, the Radio Authority, the Broadcasting Standards Council (soon to be renamed commission), the radio branch of the Department of Trade and Industry — maybe even the BBC's Board of Governors. Trying to regulate through separate agencies what technology has brought together makes increasing nonsense. Questions like how to ensure that the main supplier of digital set-top boxes does not shut the door to other broadcasters, or should British Telecom be allowed to sell television entertainment to mass audiences down the telephone line, would be easier to tackle. In Washington, the FCC offers one-stop regulation for all of these. It is headed by five politically appointed commissioners, of whom no more than three can be from the same party. Reed Hundt, the Democratic chairman, is too clever to criticise another country's communications regulations. But he can see that the British approach is "very managed". "You think about which way you want to go and then decide the rules on how to get there. We wait and see where the players want to go. Who can say who's going to be successful?" In favour of the American way, he says, is the certainty that "all predictions are wrong".

The FCC has learnt its pragmatism the hard way. During the 1970s and 1980s it practised "creative regulation", trying to guide the direction technology would take. The result, says Hundt, was a "colossal mistake". Cable television was overprotected, the national television networks were discouraged from investing in programme production, the telephone and computer industries, local and long-distance telephone services were forcibly kept apart.

Now all the effort is focused on lowering the regulatory barriers and allowing the technologies to converge — without discouraging competition and diversity. The increasing number of new media possibilities have allowed the FCC, prodded by Congress's recent Telecom Act, to permit ownership of radio and television stations in

larger clusters. But the FCC still prides itself on some success in preventing excessive cross-media ownership.

Hundt, a communications lawyer, thinks the excitement about the entrance of The News Corporation (parent company of The Times) and Echo into domestic satellite television distribution was premature. "We still have to look at it," he says. The hopes of offering 500 channels by satellite, including local television, cuts across an FCC rule that no satellite service may broadcast local programmes into areas where these are available on cable or rooftop aerial.

As a Democrat, Hundt acknowledges that the marketplace approach does not serve all the television audience. His Republican predecessor, Mark Fowler, said memorably: "The public interest is the public's interest." In contrast, Reed points to children's television: "The marketplace will not serve kids because kids don't have any money."

Since January the FCC has imposed new rules to try to carry out Congress's mandate to improve children's television. US television stations must submit quarterly evidence of compliance. Yet any American attempt to regulate the content of what appears on TV inevitably runs up against the constitutional protection of free speech. Broadcasting, in this sense, is "speech". The only reason that it is not as free from regulation as the American press is that broadcasters need licences, of course, a public resource. They therefore must submit to some governmental conditions in exchange for access to the air. But not many.

The FCC's new rules on children's programmes look pitifully weak. All they insist on is half an hour a week of a regularly scheduled programme of informational or educational content, to be shown between 7am and 10pm.

Can't the FCC take a more qualitative approach to raising standards? Hundt says no. All the commission can do is design numerical formulas and brandish the threat of removal of licence.

With technology moving so fast, the advantages of the FCC's approach are obvious. Yet it can do nothing to enliven the blandness of network television, spilt by the frequency of commercial interruption and lack of variety. Last week when NBC showed *Schindler's List* without a commercial break, 63 million people watched it.

The inability to impose cultural values on broadcast television is one argument against a single British regulator for communications. The inevitability of the press being drawn into statutory regulation is another. But there is no excuse for not combining all other communications business under one official roof, especially if its technical sophistication is high and its doors are open.



BRENDA MADDOX

## TV cooks up a storm

RARELY has the power of television been more clearly illustrated than in *Delia Smith's Red Nose Collection* comedy programme last month, when she was joined by the comedian Dawn French to make chocolate muffins. The BBC2 show triggered a run on the mini-muffin baking tray featured.

In Sainsbury's stores throughout the land, the trays started selling like, well... hot cakes. A supply that should have lasted six months has already sold out. Customer service lines have been so busy with calls for the baking trays that the powers-that-be have had to rush an advance order from the only manufacturer. Remaining baking trays, meanwhile, are being rationed among the stores to avoid outbreaks from frustrated would-be muffin-makers.

### Sugar and Spice

WORKING with the Spice Girls won't be unexpected benefits for Jennifer Saunders, actress and mother of three



Dawn French and Delia Smith triggered a run

daughters aged between five and 11. As part of this month's Comic Relief TV extravaganza, Saunders formed a lookalike band, called the Sugar Lumps, with Dawn French, Kathy Burke, Lulu and Llewella Gideon. The two bands teamed up last month to make the official Comic Relief single, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, the proceeds of which will go to the charity. Saunders says: "Despite all the amazing people I've worked with, working with the Spice Girls has finally earned me the respect of my children."

### Judgment day

THE controversial former High Court judge James Pickles is to join News Bunnies and topless-darts players on Live TV, possibly Britain's least-viewed but best-known cable station. The judge is to star in *Live TV*, presiding over mock trials based on real-life cases. The series features cases from all over the country, such as the Dartmoor villagers trying to prevent a Thai massage salon from opening.

The protagonists from each side will be invited to submit their case, and the judge will

deliver his learned verdict. Pickles, who retired from the bench in 1991, says: "even though our courts are open to the public, relatively few people will ever have attended a trial." Unfortunately for Pickles, even fewer people are ever likely to watch Live TV.

### Launch fling

BIZARRE, the new magazine about the world of the weird, has run into trouble even before going on sale. The inaugural issue was pulped after an article was found to be in contempt of court. So yesterday the magazine — the latest ride from John Brown Publishing, which produces *Viz* — relaunched itself.

To mark the affair, an octopus-throwing competition took place in Battersea Park, south London. The creatures were dead before the first tentacle was flung, but the event incurred the wrath of animal rights groups. The RSPCA says: "Because they were dead, there was no cruelty, so there was nothing we could do. But it is in very bad taste and might encourage people to behave inappropriately with animals."

Octopus-throwing is apparently big among Canadian ice hockey fans who hurt the inky creatures onto the rink when their team wins.

GOOD news for the playwright Alan Bennett who recently denounced *Classic FM* listeners as "Saga louts". *Saga*, the over-50s travel firm, which spends around £400,000 a year with *Classic*, has withdrawn all advertising from the station after it jacked up its rates.

*Saga* director Tim Bull said: "Advertising on *Classic* is no longer cost-effective."

### Morley silenced

ONE CRITIC was conspicuous by his absence when colleagues of the late *Daily Mail* critic Jack Tinker trod the boards at the London Palladium to celebrate the writer's life.

Sheridan Morley, who reviews shows for *The Spectator* and the *International Herald Tribune*, has the imposing physique that could dominate a stage and a voice to hit the back rows of the Drury Lane. But he was not invited to take part. For Tinker's job was considered by some to follow rather too hard upon the diminutive scribe's death. Whatever the reason, Charles Osborne, who was formerly *The Daily Telegraph's* man in the stalls and who organised the tribute, says: "At the request of those close to Jack, it was decided not to ask Sheridan to take part."

## Admen under fire

AS THE political temperature rises and a possible change of government looms, the Advertising Association has conducted a MORI survey of 100 anonymous MPs' views of the advertising industry and its work.

It seems that the industry still has serious image problems among more than 40 per cent of the Labour Party members surveyed. Among their objections are that advertising "does not work in the public interest", it "exploits markets", "distorts needs" and "misleads consumers".

One Labour backbencher even declares: "(Advertising) is guilty of telling more lies than politicians", while another says: "They are unscrupulous, ruthless, grasping and duplicitous."

The association has brushed off the findings. "The official Labour Party is extremely positive about us and does not endorse these worries," says Andrew Brown, the association's director-

general. "The point is not to be confused between individual, anonymous opinions and official policy."

DAVID OGILVY, the co-founder of Ogilvy and Mather, one of the world's top ten agencies, publishes an updated version of his 1978 autobiography on March 20.

The £16.99 hardback, published by John Wiley, tells his rags-to-riches life story, from childhood poverty and his early working years flogging Aga cookers to a move to Scotland to his launching of the profitable O&M.

It also includes some revealing extras about the 35-year-old Ogilvy, who now lives in a 14th-century chateau in Cannes, France. These include his favourite words (such as eggregious, subtle and ragamuffin),

his favourite recipes (mushroom soup and honey ice-cream) and his favourite friends (the Duke of Edinburgh, Eleanor Roosevelt and a conspicuously small number of O&M colleagues).

ONE of the most memorable advertising jingles bites the dust from today, as Jacob's Bakery unveils a new campaign for Club biscuits minus its familiar signature tune.

The slogan "If you like a lot of chocolate on your biscuit join our Club" was created in 1982. Jacob's Bakery's new agency, Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper, has created a high-tech campaign which breaks tonight. Sources say it reflects the new "high-tech" Club biscuit, with 15 per cent more chocolate and an improved centre. Nothing is sacred, it seems.

BELINDA ARCHER



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INSIDE  
SECTION

2  
TODAY



## ARTS

Ariel Dorfman's  
new play finds him  
on familiar ground  
PAGES 33-35



## HOMES

How to learn  
the history of  
your house  
PAGE 41



## SPORT

Why Schumacher  
craves a  
change of pace  
PAGES 43-48

TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
46, 47

WEDNESDAY MARCH 5 1997

# Halifax cash pile points to second payout

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

HALIFAX Building Society, which converts to a bank in June, is awash with cash and needs to dispense with more than £3 billion of surplus capital reserves, it revealed yesterday.

Even before it floats the society is considering opening the coffers to its 8.5 million new shareholders, either via a special dividend or a share buyback programme.

Announcing Halifax's annual results yesterday, Roger Boyes, group finance director, said the society's capital structure was inappropriate for its future. He said: "The money is broadly invested in the money markets where it is not getting a huge return. The task of the

board is to enhance the returns on the money. We cannot rule out returning capital to shareholders. The alternative is to find new ways, either through acquisitions or by investing in organic growth and our existing businesses."

Halifax has built up £6.87 billion of capital reserves, giving it a tier 1 ratio of 14 per cent, double that of most banks and three times the level required by the Bank of England. Although it has declined to enter the fray for Scottish Amicable, Halifax could fund bids for companies as diverse as Northern Rock, Allied Irish, Friends Provident, Perpetual and Mercury Asset Management.

Gren Folwell, deputy chief executive, said that he would introduce a loyalty scheme to ensure an even higher level of support from private shareholders than at Abbey National, which has retained a 45 per cent retail shareholder base since its conversion.

The prospect of a further windfall could tempt a high number of Halifax members to hang on to their shares, barring the entry of institutional investors, such as tracker funds, into the FT-SE 100-listed stock.

Ian Morley, head of derivatives at John Govett, said that illiquidity in Halifax shares would cause some tracking error but that holders would sell shares eventually thereby easing the situation.

Analysts raised concerns about the company's direction as it revealed a modest 6.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £1.43 billion. Despite spending

£626 million on discounts and cash incentives Halifax saw its share of net new mortgage lending slipped to 11 per cent (£2 billion), compared with its 20 per cent stake of all mortgage stock.

Halifax said that in the first half it had withdrawn from the intensely competitive remortgaging market. In total it made 210,000 loans, including 70,000 to first-time buyers, with 70 per cent of loans on an interest-only basis backed by endowments or Pepps.

Similarly, its share of new liquid savings was 7 per cent (£2.4 billion), well off its 16 per cent presence in personal sector liquid assets.

However, personal loans grew £182 million to £1.09 billion. Profits were also hit by the additional £298 million costs of merging with the Leeds Building Society and conversion expenses, which had reached £153 million.

Jon Foulds, chairman, said the results showed Halifax was en route to being the UK's leading provider of personal financial services.

However, one analyst said Halifax should reduce diversification and refocus on the core mortgage and lending businesses. "With the right capital structure Halifax is saying it could make a capital return of 25 per cent on its core markets. If so, it would do better to concentrate here, although it will probably have to make acquisitions and offer something to shareholders to mop up the excessively high level of reserves."

Pennington, page 27



Looking up: Robert Peel, chief executive of Thistle Hotels, wants to open 2,000 new rooms a year. Profits before tax and exceptional charges for the year to the end of December rose 73 per cent to £60 million on sales up 8.5 per cent Page 27

## Bid battle likely for Littlewoods store chain

By JON ASHWORTH

ANALYSTS predicted a bidding scramble after Littlewoods, the pools-to-retailing group, confirmed it has put its 135-strong chain of stores up for sale. Asda and Tesco were immediately tipped as front-runners for the outlets, which are expected to fetch £500 million or more.

The move, which follows a long period of turbulence at Britain's biggest private company, would allow Littlewoods to focus on its home shopping interests. Earlier this year the company, which is controlled by descendants of Sir John Moores, announced plans to buy Freemans from Sears for £395 million. The deal is under review by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Details emerged as Littlewoods announced interim pre-tax profits of £112.1 million (£97.3 million) in the year to December 31. Group retail sales rose 8.5 per cent to £1.8 billion, but the impact of the National Lottery left overall sales 1.3 per cent lower at £2.3 billion. The leisure division saw turnover tumble to £459 million (£631 million). Littlewoods has changed its year end, and the results for the 16 months to April 1997 will be published in July.

The company had planned to invest heavily in its stores, creating 3,000 jobs, but the project was scrapped and Bob Willett resigned as head of the stores division.

Bill Huntly, chief executive of Littlewoods, said: "We have had a plan in place for some time and we were showing year-on-year improvement in sales and profitability, but last year's improvement wasn't as much as we expected."

Asda and Tesco aside, analysts speculated on a possible bid from Marks & Spencer to safeguard its market share.

United front, page 29

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	4357.7 (+50.6)
Yield	3.65%
FTSE All share	2128.38 (+12.11)
Nikkei	18564.78 (+135.65)
New York	8824.30 (+5.38)*
Dow Jones	797.26 (+1.85)*
S&P Composite	797.26 (+1.85)*

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond	87 1/4% (87 1/4%)
Yield	8.83% (8.83%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	8 1/4% (8 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	11 1/4% (11 1/4%)

## STERLING

New York	1.8162* (1.8165)
London	1.8172 (1.8185)
DM	2.7644 (2.7425)
FF	1.4870* (1.4778)
SFR	2.3981 (2.3898)
Yen	197.01 (195.68)
£ index	98.5 (98.0)

## \$\$\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

London	1.7141* (1.6985)
DM	2.7789 (2.7325)
SFR	1.4870* (1.4778)
Yen	121.58* (121.28)

Tokyo close Yen 121.85

## HOPE IN A CHINA

Shanghai 15-day (May)	\$18.80 (\$18.65)
4000	

London close \$389.80 (\$389.55)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Misery

Long-suffering commuters on the notorious "misery line" into London's Fenchurch Street station are to gain from the first big order of new passenger trains since British Rail privatisation in a deal announced yesterday by Frim, the franchise holder. Page 26

## Wounded

Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group warned the stock market of another year of tough trading in America. Page 31, Tempus 28

## Pledge by Honda on British operations

By OLIVER AUGUST

HONDA, the Japanese automobile group, has rejected recent criticism of the British Government by other foreign investors and said it will keep its UK operations even if Britain opts out of the European single currency.

Kentaro Kato, the European executive vice-president in charge of manufacturing, said: "We operate in many countries, which means in every part of the world we try to avoid currency fluctuations. Therefore, there is no intention to change investment strategy if they join or not."

He emphasised that overall manufacturing costs were not particularly high in Europe. Higher than average costs at the Swindon plant were due to the fact that the plant had not been fully written down rather than currency problems. "The comparative costs are at a slight disadvantage because it's new," Mr Kato said.

Senior executives at Siemens, Unilever and Toyota have recently given warnings of the adverse consequences of staying out of monetary union because damaging currency fluctuations could increase in Britain while they would decrease in Europe.

Mr Kato said that Honda's sales in Europe were growing strongly after the company sold 200,000 cars in 1996. Its Civic and Accord models are mainly responsible for the sales rise.

## Power firms face £1.5bn pension bill

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

POWER COMPANIES face a £1.5 billion bill if a landmark decision by the Pensions Ombudsman is upheld, according to a union representing 30,000 electricity workers. This is a third higher than previous estimates and could thwart Labour's plans for a windfall tax on the industry and endanger thousands of jobs.

Julian Farrand, the ombudsman, last month ordered National Grid to repay £46.3 million of surpluses that it took from the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme in 1992. The company is expected this week to launch an appeal in the High Court against David Laws and Reg Mayes, former employees who complained to Dr Farrand.

Trustees of the National Grid pension fund met on Monday and are also expected to appeal against the ombuds-

man's verdict of "innocent maladministration".

However, Tony Cooper, general secretary of the Engineers and Managers Association, to which Mr Laws and Mr Mayes belong, expressed regret that the cases had been brought.

Refunding Mr Cooper's estimate of £1.5 billion would take most of the electricity pension funds over inland Revenue limits on pension benefits. The result would be either losing the surpluses or their tax status, he said. Forcing power companies to pay back the money would cost jobs and encourage them to switch from final salary schemes to less-generous money purchase plans. If the court overturned Dr Farrand's decision, it would probably confer full control of pension surpluses on the companies. "We are in a no-win situation," he said.

The dollar is profiting partly from the view that the American economy may be strengthening and that the argument for higher US interest rates is becoming more compelling. Yesterday's American economic statistics supported this view, with sales of new homes in January jumping to the highest level for nearly 11 years.

In addition, the Conference Board, a leading business research group, said its index of leading indicators designed to forecast economic activity six to nine months ahead, jumped 0.3 per cent in January, its biggest increase for eight months. This added to Monday's survey by American purchasing managers, which showed that manufacturing activity had accelerated in February.

Markets, page 28

## Dollar rally lifts shares to record

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

A RALLYING dollar helped London and several other European stock markets to record highs yesterday, and also helped to push sterling to its highest level against the mark for 53 months.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 50.6 points higher, at 4,357.7, just above the record set on February 19. The pound's effective index jumped to a close of 98.5 from Monday's finish at 98.0, rising two pennies to DM2.7688 during the session. The dollar hit a peak of DM1.7138, its best level for 54 months.

German shares also profited from dollar strength, which should encourage exporters. In Frankfurt, the DAX index closed in fresh territory above 3,300 points, boosted particularly by a rally in car shares.

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## MFI value slides on winter warning

By FRASER NELSON



John Randall is unsure why MFI has gone off the boil

SHARES in MFI lost 21 per cent of their value yesterday after the furniture retailer gave warning that growth in sales has almost halved in the key winter sales period.

The company said that revenue growth had fallen to 7.3 per cent over the last 16 weeks, against the 15.7 per cent growth achieved in the six months to October. The shares fell 40 p.p. to 156 p.p., their lowest level in more than a year - wiping £241 million from MFI's market value.

John Randall, chief executive, said that the company had no idea what was causing the slowdown. He said: "The

growth in our first half came virtually out of nowhere. I couldn't tell what had caused that increase, and I'm not sure now why it has gone down."

Mr Randall said that MFI would have been well placed to gain from any growth in spending. "The business is in much better shape than it was last time," he said. "If there was something out there, I can see no reason why we should not have our fair share of it."

Although the Homeworks MFI stores traded well in the quarter, sales slipped in unconverted MFI stores, still the majority of the UK portfolio. The 99 stores in France lifted

revenue by 10.7 per cent on a domestic level, but this became a decline of 7.2 per cent after conversion to sterling.

The City was stunned by the warning, and analysts marked MFI profit forecasts from £90 million to £76 million. A Charterhouse Titney analyst said: "We were looking at January and February with a great deal of optimism. Now we see that improvement in the housing market is not following through into consumer spending. Joe Public has not exactly got his hands stuck in his pockets, but it seems he is not spending money doing up his house."

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Commercial Union	75.00
Nationwide Life	83.50
Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	88.99
Black Horse Life	101.68
Scottish Amicable	108.00
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# New trains for suffering 'misery line' passengers

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

LONG-SUFFERING commuters on the notorious "misery line" into Fenchurch Street station in London are to gain from the first big order of new passenger trains since British Rail privatisation.

The £200 million contract for a fleet of 44 electric, 100 mph, air-conditioned trains capable of reducing journey times by up to 10 per cent, was announced yesterday by Prism, the company that took over the London, Tilbury and Southend (LTS) franchise last year.

It brings to an end one of the longest new rolling stock

droughts in the history of the British railways, which has seen only 12 new trains ordered for the entire network over the past three years.

The new rolling stock, with automatic sliding doors, will replace ageing slam-door trains, some of which date to the mid-1960s, and will be delivered by Adtranz, the Derby-based manufacturer, by November 1999. They will be leased from Porterbrook.

The LTS line came to symbolise the rundown state of Britain's railways during the years before privatisation when passengers were forced to endure crowded, unreliable journeys on some of the oldest trains still in regular use in the industrialised world.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, welcomed the order as "further evidence of the good news which rail privatisation is bringing passengers".

However, critics of the sell-off said it was possible only because the Government had inflated the subsidy to the new private rail companies for political reasons.

Keith Bill, national secretary of Save Our Railways, a pressure group, said: "Prism is not spending a single penny of its shareholders' money. It's all coming from the taxpayer. The new private companies have been given double the amount of subsidy that British Rail received, and it's from that money that this leasing order comes."

The order is expected to be followed by many more from other privatised firms. They will come only just in time to save the rapidly dwindling British train manufacturing industry, which has been starved of work during the upheavals caused by privatisation.

## Holliday has sights set on US

HOLLIDAY CHEMICAL, the specialty chemicals group, reported an increase in pre-tax profits to £16.1 million (£15.4 million) in the year to December 31, and said it had made rapid development in its pharmaceutical division.

The company is seeking access to the US market for ranitidine, a generic drug that the company is able to sell elsewhere but not in the US because of patent protection.

There was good growth in sales and profits from pigments, but intense competition saw dyestuffs suffer a sharp fall in turnover and profits. Earnings per share rose to 10.5p (10.4p) and the dividend increased 0.25p to 5.25p. The shares rose 8p yesterday to 134p.



Filling in: Paul Rackam, managing director of Waste Recycling, and Tim Walsh, the landfill director, celebrate a rise in pre-tax profits to £4.1 million, from £3.1 million. Earnings rose 21 per cent to 8.1p, for a 33 per cent increase in the total dividend to 2p.

## Rivals put pressure on Centrica

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

MORE than 53,000 gas consumers in the South Coast regions of Kent and Sussex have already signed up to take supplies from rivals of Centrica, the British Gas company. News of further defections among the 900,000 customers of the former monopoly is expected before competition officially starts on Friday.

The region is the third to be

opened for competition, preceded by the South West last April and Dorset and Avon on February 10. New figures from TransCo, the BG pipeline company, show that 22,000 of the half-million Dorset and Avon customers have now defected, up 6,000 since February 21.

Competition is expected to be intense on the South Coast,

where price cuts have been offered by, among others, ScottishPower, which owns the local Southern Water utility. East Midlands Electricity's Sterling Gas and Calorox, which links Calor and Texaco. In the South West, more than 95,000 of the half-million gas households have now switched, compared with 29,000 at the start of competi-

## Tories plan European index of labour costs

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government wants to establish a precise measure of labour costs across Europe, hoping to demonstrate the value of the UK's flexible job market. Preparatory work for what is being called an "RPI for labour" is under way.

Government ministers believe that the policy of promoting greater labour market flexibility is paying off both in the number of inward investment companies setting up in the UK, and in estimates of Britain's relative labour cost advantage over other European countries.

Ministers emphasise that for every £100 in wage costs, non-wage costs like social benefits add a further £15 in Britain, £31 in Germany, £33 in Spain, £41 in France and as much as £44 in Italy. They believe awareness of such figures has helped to increase business and general concern about Labour's proposal to abandon the opt-out from the European social chapter.

But they are dissatisfied that Britain has no figures to match this data, which comes from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, so they are keen to take part in a programme, supported by the European Commission's statistical arm Eurostat, to establish a European-wide labour cost index, which would allow for direct comparisons of employment costs between all EU member countries.

Pennington, page 27

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Boeing expects boom in aircraft orders

BOEING, the world's leading aerospace manufacturer, expects to achieve its highest-ever monthly output at the end of this year, producing 40 planes a month in the autumn. The group hired more than 20,000 people last year to cater for the increase in demand. Boeing forecasts an aircraft boom, last seen in 1980s. Over the next 20 years, the total number of jet planes will grow from 11,500 to 23,600, giving rise to orders totalling \$1.1 billion.

According to Boeing's *Current Market Outlook* document, world air travel will grow 5 per cent annually. Airbus, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace, will be the other main beneficiary from this boom. The aerospace sector now effectively operates as a duopoly, with a 70-30 split in Boeing's favour. The Asia-Pacific region will see the strongest growth over the next two decades, which has led both Airbus and Boeing to look for Asian partners.

### Freepages raises £43m

FREEPAGES, operator of a toll-free classified phone directory, raised a net £43.1 million through the sale of new ordinary shares and American depositary receipts. The sterling placing price was set at 47.5p, while the price of the ADRs, which are equivalent to 20 ordinary shares, was \$15.39. The ADRs will trade on the Nasdaq market. The new money will be used to fund joint ventures, including an agreement with VNU of The Netherlands, to introduce the Freepages service to the Benelux countries.

### Pendragon lifts payout

PENDRAGON, the car dealer, raised pre-tax profits from £11.3 million to £12.6 million in the year to December 31. Earnings rose from 19.7p to 21.7p and the final dividend is 10 pence higher at 6.6p, taking the total to 9.9p. Trevor Finn, chief executive, said demand for luxury cars remained strong and many new products have long waiting lists. Contract hire remained a strong contributor and earnings from financial products would increase "as the sale of cars and payment packages become more closely aligned."

### Unigate £14m shake-up

UNIGATE, the dairy products group, is to make a provision of up to £14 million in the first half to cover the cost of streamlining its British margarine and spreads operations. The action follows a review in the wake of the acquisition of the Vitalite and Golden Churn yellow fats business from Kraft in August 1996. The St Ivel Hemmick factory in Devon is to be closed within the next 18 months, although Unigate hopes to relocate the 160 workers to other sites within the group. The shares remained unchanged at 455p.

### Greenalls restructures

GREENALLS Group is to take a £7.3 million exceptional charge against the cost of merging two pub and restaurant divisions, resulting in the loss of around 100 jobs, it was announced yesterday. The company is merging Premier House, which comprises 175 branded pub restaurants, with Greenalls Inns Retail, the 920-strong chain of managed houses. In addition, 245 managed houses will be transferred from Greenalls Inns Retail to Inn Partnership, the group's franchised and tenanted pub operation. Tempus, page 28

### Southern News up 40%

SOUTHERN NEWSPAPERS lifted pre-tax profit 40 per cent to £8.2 million from £5.8 million in the six months to December 28. The regional publishing and printing business was helped by an exceptional gain of £4.1 million, relating to a property disposal. James Sexton, chief executive, said Southern was looking to make further acquisitions. It bought 15 titles from United News & Media for £31.5 million in November. An interim dividend of 5p (4.5p) is due on April 1 from earnings, excluding exceptional, of 17.07p (15.99p).

### Wetherspoon advances

JD WETHERSPOON, the public house group, expects to raise capital spending in the second half of the year to July 1997. Over the full year, the figure is likely to be about £52 million. The company, which opened 18 pubs in the six months to the end of January, expects to open a further 22 in the second half, bringing its total to 186. Interim figures for the six months to January 1997 show a 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.1 million on sales 44 per cent ahead at £65 million. The interim dividend rises from 3.1p to 3.4p a share.

## TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Buy	Buy	Buy
Australia \$	2.14	Malta	0.857
Austria S	1.96	Netherlands G	2.359
Belgium F	35.44	New Zealand \$	2.43
Canada C	2.511	Portugal E	10.02
Cyprus Cyp	0.851	Spain P	287.50
Denmark Kr	11.02	Sweden S	7.80
France F	6.57	Switzerland F	2.33
Germany D	2.88	USA \$	1.712
Greece Dr	44.8		
Hong Kong S	13.13		
Ireland P	1.08		
Israel Sh	5.71		
Italy Lit	2087		
Japan Yen	210.50		

Rates for small denomination bank notes, supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates at close of trading yesterday.

**Recommended Offer**  
by  
**Coopers & Lybrand Corporate Finance**  
on behalf of  
**PCB Investments plc**  
a company established by

## Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Equity Fund III, L.P.

to acquire the whole of the issued share capital of Forward Group PLC

Coopers & Lybrand Corporate Finance ("Coopers & Lybrand") announces on behalf of PCB Investments plc ("PCB Investments") that, by means of a formal offer document dated 4 March 1997 ("the Offer Document") and this advertisement, Coopers & Lybrand has made a recommended offer ("the Offer") on behalf of PCB Investments to acquire the whole of the issued and to be issued share capital of Forward Group PLC ("Forward"). Terms defined in the Offer Document have the same meanings in this advertisement.

The Offer is made on the following basis:  
for each Forward Share 230p in cash  
and so in proportion for any other number of Forward Shares held.

The Offer values each Forward share at 230p and Forward's fully diluted ordinary share capital at approximately £129 million. Forward Shareholders (other than certain overseas shareholders) who validly accept the Offer are entitled to elect to receive Loan Notes in lieu of all or part of the cash consideration to which they would otherwise have been entitled under the basic terms of the Offer on the basis of £1 nominal of Loan Notes for every £1 of cash consideration receivable under the Offer. The Loan Notes will be transferable but no application will be made for them to be listed or dealt in on any stock exchange or any other trading facility.

The full terms and conditions of the Offer and the Loan Note Alternative (including details of how the Offer may be accepted) are set out in the Offer Document and the Form of Acceptance.

The Offer has, by means of this advertisement, been extended to all persons to whom the Offer Document may not be despatched or who hold, or who are entitled to have allotted or issued to them, Forward Shares. Such persons are informed that copies of the Offer Document and Form of Acceptance are available for collection during normal business hours from Lloyds Bank Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA.

The Offer, which has been made by means of the Offer Document and this advertisement and the Loan Note Alternative, will each be open for acceptance until 3.00pm on 25 March 1997 (or, in each case, such later time(s) and/or date(s) as PCB Investments, subject to the rules of the Code, may decide).

The directors of Forward, who have been so advised by Price Waterhouse Corporate Finance ("Price Waterhouse") have stated that they consider the terms of the Offer to be fair and reasonable and have unanimously recommended all Forward Shareholders to accept the Offer as they have irrevocably undertaken to do in respect of their holdings of Forward Shares. The Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland and accordingly the Offer Document, the Form of Acceptance and the Listing Particulars are not being and must not be, mailed or otherwise distributed or sent in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland.

The Loan Notes to be issued pursuant to the Offer have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under any of the relevant securities laws of any state or district of the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland. Accordingly, unless an exemption under such Act or other laws is available, the Loan Notes will not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland or to or for the account or benefit of any USA, Canadian, Australian or Irish person.

This advertisement is not being published or otherwise distributed or sent to, into or from the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland and persons reading this advertisement (including custodians, trustees and nominees) must not distribute or send this advertisement, the Offer Document or the Form of Acceptance, in, into or from the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland nor use the USA, Canadian, Australian or Irish mails or any similar means for any purpose, directly or indirectly, in connection with the Offer and doing so will invalidate any related purported acceptance of the Offer.

This advertisement is published on behalf of PCB Investments and has been approved by Coopers & Lybrand, Coopers & Lybrand, which is authorised to carry on Investment Business by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, is acting for Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Equity Fund III, L.P. and PCB Investments and no-one else in connection with the Offer and will not be responsible to anyone other than PCB Investments and Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Equity Fund III, L.P. for providing the protections afforded to customers of Coopers & Lybrand or for providing advice in relation to the Offer. Price Waterhouse, which is authorised to carry on Investment Business by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, is acting for Forward and no-one else in connection with the Offer and will not be responsible to anyone other than Forward for providing the protections afforded to customers of Price Waterhouse, or for providing advice in relation to the Offer.

The directors of PCB Investments accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement and, to the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

5 March 1997

## De Beers in talks with Russians

By Jon Ashworth

FRESH hope of a renewed diamond deal with Russia emerged yesterday when De Beers, the South African diamond group, said it had held "constructive" talks with the Russian diamond authorities over a long-standing diamond supply contract.

Russia pulled out of De Beers' Central Selling Organisation (CSO) on January 1, threatening to flood Western markets with cheap gems.

Record sales by the CSO, which controls about 75 per cent of the rough diamond market, helped to lift total combined earnings at De Beers to \$1.34 billion (\$986 million) in 1996. Earnings per share rose to 354 US cents (259 cents). The group increased its dividend by 10.5 per cent to 102.7 cents a share.

Sales of rough diamonds by the CSO were 7 per cent higher in 1996, at \$4.83 billion (\$4.53 billion). Second-half sales were affected by the continued "leakage" of Russian gems.

## ADT rejects improved bid terms

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

ADT, the world's largest home security and car auctions group, has rejected an improved takeover offer from Western Resources, its largest shareholder.

Western, a utility company based in Kansas, raised the cash element of its bid by one-third to \$10 from \$7.5 per share, although the total value of its offer remained broadly unchanged at \$22.5 a share, worth a total of \$3.5 billion.

ADT said the offer remained inadequate and that there was no good strategic fit with Western, which plans to sell ADT's car auction business, worth about \$450 million. If it wins its bid, Michael Ashcroft, ADT chairman, said: "We understand why a slow growth Kansas utility thinks it would benefit from buying a high growth international electronic security services company but fail to see any compelling reason why ADT shareholders would benefit from such an alliance."

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICES

**THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**  
In accordance with Rule 4.156 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that E.P. BARRY, FCA of Somerset, Somerset & Co., PO Box 591, 30 Canham Lane, Taunton, Somerset TA1 1BB, is the Liquidator of the above named company, and that the Liquidator's office is at the above address.

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**LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES**  
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE 0171-782 7344 OR FAX 0171-881 9313  
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.



□ Dilemma for our mutual friend □ A way forward for one British grocer □ Gas gets more competitive

## Too much Xtra at the Halifax

□ THE Duchess of Windsor was wrong. It is perfectly possible to be too rich or too thin. No one could accuse the Halifax, the country's biggest building society, of being too thin. But it does seem to be suffering an embarrassment of riches.

The Bank of England lays down guidelines on how much banks must have put away for a rainy day. This, simply, is expressed as the relationship between assets, and what would be left in the coffers once all debts were paid off and all loans called in. It is designed to prevent reputable banks — such as Barings, say — going bust.

Don't be so cynical. The Halifax's balance sheet shows total assets adjusted for the relative risk they carry of almost £50 billion. Tier 1 capital, the cash potentially left over, stands at £6.9 billion, or 14 per cent of that total, twice the figure regarded as necessary by the Bank. So the Halifax's return on capital is running at 12 to 13 per cent, about half that of those banks among whose number it will be counted after conversion.

Thus to earn the returns the market expects, the Halifax must divest itself of £3 billion. This may seem weirdly reminiscent of those 1980s dinner party

conversations about how vital it was to have the biggest mortgage you could possibly afford, but it is the way banking works.

Halifax could spend the money on an acquisition, which explains the queue of hopeful merchant bankers now forming outside its head offices. But prices for other societies and life insurers have run out of control. Hence the talk about "repatriating" the cash to members.

The trouble here is that any promise of more goodies after flotation, in the form of special dividends or share buy-backs, is the last thing the company or the City needs. An 8.5 million-strong shareholder list all refusing to sell would be a nightmare to administer, while the lack of new equity being issued means institutions would be starved of stock. Great news for members, though, as this will force the price higher in the after-market even before the buy-back or dividend arrives.

One must marvel at the topsy-turvy logic that forces a business

to float in order to end up with more cash than it needs. The alternative might be to use the money to buy market share, by enhancing returns to savers and providing good rates to lenders.

The Halifax spent £600 million on just this last year, in the form of cash-backs and discounted mortgage rates. The excess cash should be good for at least another five years. The trouble is, the new shareholders would never stand for it. You have to be a mutual to get away with that sort of thing.

### Littlewoods boxes clever

□ THEY will deny it, but our grocers, despite being in one of the most profitable businesses on Earth, are all locked in the British Box. We may not yet have reached saturation in our desire for new supermarkets, but we are not far off it. Just as the ideal location for a pub is about three streets away from where you



live, the ideal supermarket is a couple of miles away. Anything nearer is in Our Back Yard.

This means any attempt to build new superstores will be met by a stern response from John Gummer at the Department of the Environment, take months, may years, and cost a bomb. But the City is so accustomed to profits growth that any suggestion of a mere slowdown, as we have seen this year, has the analysts reaching for their red pencils. This is why Tesco is trying to read the road signs in Czech and Hungarian, and Marks & Spencer is so keen on Australia and home shopping.

They are all looking at financial services, heaven help them.

Now Littlewoods offers an immediate way out of the British Box — 135 shops, three quarters of them in prime high street locations, but for one buyer only alas. Ideal for medium-sized food stores selling high-margin prepared food, leaving the groggy commodity stuff to the superstores on the edge of town. Exactly the market that Marks has pioneered, come to think of it, and available to Tesco or Asda at a very reasonable £500 million, or to Marks if it wants to head off the competition.

So goes the sales pitch. Think of your local Littlewoods, and you might balk at that prime location description, but estate agents have never kept a strict regard for truth. Whatever happens, this is the most exciting shake-up in retail for years, and it will either provide the Moores family with the cash for Freemans, the MMC willing, or for another round of fratricidal legal bickering. Just one doubt arises:

this is the personal initiative of James Ross, the new chairman at Littlewoods out of Cable and Wireless. The family has never shown much patience with outsiders, and the plan might not survive him. An early viewing of the stores is recommended.

### Picking cherries in the spring

□ COMPETITION in household gas was meant to be as heavily stacked against the old British Gas as it was in the industrial market. Instead of cumbersome restrictions, however, the idea was that the former monopoly would be hogged by the long-term contracts it had signed to buy gas at well above today's market price.

British Gas needed to maximise revenue in remaining monopoly areas as long as it could. So the only rule needed to promote rivals in pilot markets was to stop it charging prices below the national tariff unless

there is full competition. Centrica, divorced from the rest of British Gas, has little future without customers and so is not much prepared to sit back and lose them. In the South West, competition is proving more vigorous than first thought. In the streetwise southern stockbroker belt, more powerful competitors such as Scottish Power can hope to make even bigger inroads. Hence Centrica's attempt to stem defections of bigger South West customers, claiming competition is now self-sustaining there.

As the Gas Consumers Council notes, Centrica is stoking up expectations elsewhere. What- ever Ofgas decides, the real message for those about to be buried under a blizzard of junk mail from its competitors is: you don't have to switch, because Centrica will cut prices as soon as it is allowed. If Centrica can exchange its bad contracts for its gas assets, it should be able to adjust its national tariff in the light of experience.

The result is not entirely welcome. When everyone picks cherries, poorer customers will have to pay more, as doubters have long predicted. That is an inevitable, if unpleasant side-effect of competition.

## General Accident to lift payout 10% despite profit fall

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL ACCIDENT announced plans to increase its dividend by more than 10 per cent yesterday and ruled out the acquisition of a UK life company, saying that it intends to concentrate instead on building up Provident Mutual.

The shares rose 10½p to 847½p despite a £15 million fall in full-year profits to £421 million. The results included a contribution of £18 million, net of reorganisation costs of £16 million, from Provident Mutual, the mutual life insurer bought by GA in January 1996.

Bob Scott, chief executive, said he wants to build up the group's life and pensions operations, and the goal is to increase the proportion of life earnings to a level that covers dividends every year. The proportion of dividend covered by net life earnings in 1996 was 44 per cent.

Mr Scott ruled out any major acquisitions in the drive to expand the business and said that he has no interest in bidding for Scottish Amicable, the mutual life insurer currently being

courted by Prudential, AMP and Abbey National. He said: "At the present time there is nothing wrong with organic growth in the life division."

Overall, the contribution from life operations increased 37 per cent to £108 million. There will be a final dividend of 22.85p per share, making a total of 34.25p for the year, a 10.5 per cent increase. At the end of December the net asset per share was 675p, although Mr Scott said the stock's current net asset value is 734p.

The results are slightly better

than the City had expected and GA will now be under pressure to return to shareholders some of its surplus capital, estimated at £1 billion.

Mr Scott said that GA has a "progressive dividend policy" and added: "As far as dividends are concerned, each year will be treated on its own merits."

Meanwhile, personal motor insurance rates look set to rise across the industry as GA, in common with other insurers, plans to increase premiums by more than 3 per cent from April 1. Mr Scott is likely to make further adjustments in July. He said GA achieved 2.3 per cent rises in rates last year, although some customers have deserted as a result.

The company's worldwide underwriting deficit for the full year increased from £130 million to £212 million. This rise was because of increased competition in the United Kingdom and weather-related losses in America. In total, weather losses were up from around £100 million in 1995 to £130 million in 1996.



Scott ruled out acquisitions

Tempus, page 28

## Ladbroke closing property division

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

LADBROKE, the hotels and betting company, is closing its property division at a cost of £52 million, it was announced yesterday.

The latest charge will increase, to more than £100 million, the net exceptional charges that will be included in the company's annual results, due tomorrow.

Yesterday the company completed the sale of ten commercial and residential properties to Minerva for £25 million, and sold an office block in Boston to HN Gorin for £23 million. Ladbroke expects to complete the sale of another US property for \$13 million later this week.

The charge will be made to cover the cost of losses on disposals and a provision to write-down the value of its remaining property assets.

Other charges, previously

announced, include the cost of settling a rent dispute at the Paris Hilton and the resolution of the legal battle with Sainsbury's over the sale of Texas Homecare in 1994.

The company added that it would also be making a non-operating exceptional charge of £17.6 million to cover losses on disposals of other investment properties sold in 1996.

Analysts said that although the closure of the property division had removed an element of uncertainty the write-off was larger than expected. Ladbroke shares fell 2p, to 227p.

Ladbroke said that the book value of the remaining property portfolio is £70 million.

Analysts are expecting Ladbroke to announce a 30 per cent rise in profits, excluding tax and exceptional items, to around £160 million.

## GrandMet expects high spirits

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the drinks company, said yesterday that it expected an increase in first-half profits, with a rise in spirits volumes offsetting the adverse impact of the strong pound.

George Bull, the chairman, told the company's annual meeting that trading in the first four months of the year was in line with expectations.

The company said that Pillsbury, the food subsidiary, has shown strong organic profit growth with an improved sales mix and margins, while Burger King has continued to outperform its US competitors with like-for-like sales growth.

The company also said that the prospect of a price war with McDonald's would not slow the company's progress in the US. GrandMet shares rose 6½p, to 460p.

## CRH to cut bid budget

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

CRH, the building materials group based in the Irish Republic, expects to cut its Ir£418 million acquisition budget to between Ir£150 million and £200 million this year.

Don Godson, its chief executive, said: "We do expect a continuing flow of interesting development opportunities in all our regions, but not at the exceptional rate of 1996."

CRH reported a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to Ir£193 million for the

year to December. Earnings rose 14 per cent to Ir£105.59p a share. Mr Godson said the group's performance was satisfactory, despite the strength of the Irish pound.

CRH was able to take advantage of the continuing construction boom in Ireland to increase turnover to Ir£320 million from Ir£278 million.

An Ir£12p final makes a total dividend of Ir£10.2p, up 12 per cent, due on May 12.

## Kerry Group on prowl

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

KERRY GROUP, the food company based in the Irish Republic, is actively seeking new opportunities to complement its existing operations in Europe and America after the completion of the restructuring of its core businesses.

Yesterday the company reported a 19 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to Ir£51.2 million on sales of Ir£1.23 billion.

Earnings per share were up 16 per

cent to Ir£26.9p. The company's food ingredients division recorded a 14 per cent increase in sales to Ir£706 million, while sales at its consumer foods business grew to Ir£473 million, from Ir£445 million.

However, turnover in the agribusiness sector slipped more than 7 per cent to Ir£53 million.

There is a final dividend of Ir£2.56p a share, lifting the total dividend 15 per cent to Ir£3.83p, payable on May 26.

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## Hotel group finds room for expansion

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THISTLE HOTELS, Britain's second largest hotel group, is aiming to add 2,000 rooms to its hotel portfolio in the next few years as it concentrates on organic growth.

The company, which has 13,250 rooms at 100 sites, also plans to rebrand about 20 hotels under the Thistle name. Capital expenditure will rise from the £52 million of 1996 to £55 million this year.

Thistle, which is 46 per cent owned by New Zealand-based Brierley Investments, un-

veiled a 73 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, excluding exceptional items, to £60 million. Exceptional charges of £88 million resulted from the revaluation of the estate. Overall turnover increased 8.5 per cent to £290 million.

Thistle shares fell 8p to 198p, with analysts disappointed that the results were not as strong as those of the company's rivals. There was also concern that the rising pound could hit overseas bookings. Thistle, formerly known as Mount Charlotte Group, floated in October, priced at 170p.

Gearing fell to 31 per cent last year after the group used flotation proceeds of £250 million to reduce debt to £360 million.

Overall occupancy levels rose from 65.7 to 66.7 per cent despite closures for refurbishment. Room rates rose 13.8 per cent as the company shifted towards the commercial market, which accounts for 4h.5 per cent of total business.

Robert Peel, chief executive, said early trading in 1997 was well ahead of last year's. A maiden final dividend of 2p is payable on May 23.







## 'Media' debate

## Twin priorities

**BAFFLING** news from Morgan Stanley where Charles Scott, formerly head of European sales in the institutional equity division, was yesterday appointed head of European research. After five years in the job, Theresa Bohl has decided, in the firm's words, "to take a leave of absence." Bohl, 38, is taking time out to restore her batteries; it's unlikely that she will return to the same position. A spokeswoman assures me "She's not gone gone. We wish her every happiness."

### Decision time

**A PRIZEWINNER** at BWZ is still deliberating whether to pick up his reward. Among the more unusual prizes in a raffle to raise money for The British Heart Foundation, held in memory of David Band, BWZ's former chief executive who died in March last year, and Charles Hewitt, a messenger at Ebbgate House who died in December 1996, was a day's whale spotting in Mull and a cache of betting vouchers. Ade Adedoye, an analyst programmer in equities FT, will you please make up your mind whether you want a day at a gypsum mine and plasterboard plant.

**MORAG PRESTON**

**Alasdair Murray**  
on the small-town  
lawyer challenging  
the tobacco giants to  
indemnify smokers

It was a risky strategy. Mr Carter only quit smoking when he found that he had lung cancer. Any immediate sympathy a jury might feel for Mr Carter was further eroded by the fact that at the trial his cancer was in remission and Mr Carter looked healthy. The prosecution could also

**Norwood Wilner says the tobacco industry has behaved dishonourably**

The case was heard in front of a jury and Mr Witner felt that he would still struggle to persuade jurors that he describes as "bubbas" of the virtues of his client's case. Mr Witner satirises a "bubba" as a classic American redneck, who drives a pick-up truck with a gun rack on top and believes that health warnings are for wimps. "A bubba probably does not even have brakes on the pick-up," he adds. But a

Mr Wilner, unsurprisingly, is unconvinced by BAT's case. "BAT chose

BAT caused some excitement last month when it suggested that it would look at any proposed settlement that would trade compensation for future legal immunity. But so far there is not even a blueprint for a settlement and both the industry and its adversaries believe a solution is still years away.

Mr. Wilner is yet to make a cent from his cases although he is not taking them on for free. "I need to make some money to stay in business," he says. "I'm not trying to bankrupt them, but they need to come out of the shadows into reality. I always offer to settle my cases. It is morally and financially correct to look for a solution. If the tobacco companies believe they can fight to the death, the death could be theirs."

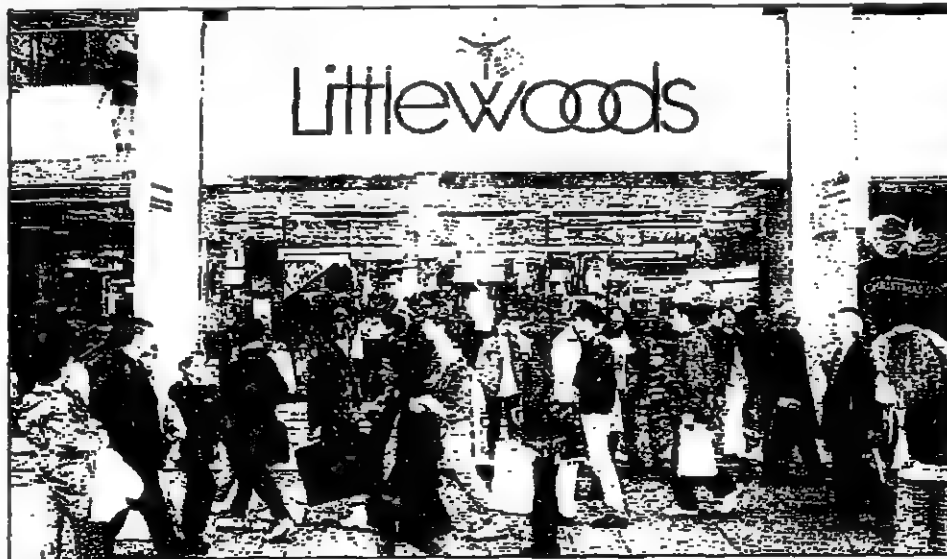
# When structures are shaky, hold your breath

**T**he real danger would come not so much from the arithmetic of supply and demand as from any attack of nerves on the part of borrowers. If they decided to shorten their ven-

What, then, keeps it looking so stable? Mainly the continuing Japanese banking crisis. Japanese government bonds may look unwarding; but not when you can secure a return of 2.5 per cent or so at a cost of 0.4 per cent. It is mainly for their benefit that the Bank of Japan runs its hidden subsidy system: the bond dealers and hedge funds are simply free riders, as they were in the US market during the Fed's similar banking bale-

## Moore's clan shows united front over plan to sell the family silver

It was the death, in 1993, of Sir John Moores, the company's founder, that launched Littlewoods on its bumpy ride. Ownership of the company is in the hands of about 30



## Littlewoods could vanish from the high street as the company focuses on home shopping

By the summer of 1996, Mr Ross had arrived on the scene and the company had announced plans to spend £135 million on its stores, creating 3,000 jobs. Six months later, all bets were off. The expansion was scrapped and Bub Willett, managing director of

The Moores family is still there, of course, but appears to be backing Mr Ross and his cohorts: Bill Huntly, chief executive, and Jim Michie, finance director. Of Sir John's four children, it is Lady Grandchester, with a non-exce-

So the future, for now at least, rests with three "outsiders" guided by Bain & Co. All should go smoothly, provided Lady Granchester continues to hold sway. There are plenty of younger Moores with forthright views about how their company should be run. Any hint that the strategy has gone awry and Mr Ross could face some difficult questions.

# DIRECT LINE INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT

Revised interest rates effective from 5th March 1997

BALANCE	NEW INTEREST RATES	
	PAID ANNUALLY	PAID MONTHLY
	(GROSS %)	(GROSS %)
£1-£4,999	4.50	4.41
£5,000-£9,999	5.00	4.89
£10,000-£24,999	5.60	5.46
£25,000-£49,999	5.75	5.60
£50,000-£99,999	6.00	5.84
£100,000 +	6.10	5.94



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est. The gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of business tax. All gross figures are subject to

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## Equities enjoy widespread gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>							
556	407	405	Adnams	407	+5	1.2	12.2
557	477	475	Barrington	477	+2	0.5	12.5
558	477	475	Barrington	477	+2	0.5	12.5
559	477	475	Barrington	477	+2	0.5	12.5
560	477	475	Barrington	477	+2	0.5	12.5
561	477	475	Barrington	477	+2	0.5	12.5
562	477	475	Barrington	477	+2	0.5	12.5
563	477	475	Barrington	477	+2	0.5	12.5
564	477	475	Barrington	477	+2	0.5	12.5
565	477	475	Barrington	477	+2	0.5	12.5

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>BANKS</b>							
4765	220	219	ABN AMRO	220	+1	0.5	12.2
4766	220	219	ABN AMRO	220	+1	0.5	12.2
4767	220	219	ABN AMRO	220	+1	0.5	12.2
4768	220	219	ABN AMRO	220	+1	0.5	12.2
4769	220	219	ABN AMRO	220	+1	0.5	12.2
4770	220	219	ABN AMRO	220	+1	0.5	12.2
4771	220	219	ABN AMRO	220	+1	0.5	12.2
4772	220	219	ABN AMRO	220	+1	0.5	12.2
4773	220	219	ABN AMRO	220	+1	0.5	12.2
4774	220	219	ABN AMRO	220	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST</b>							
3771	702	700	Beck's	702	+2	0.5	12.5
3772	702	700	Beck's	702	+2	0.5	12.5
3773	702	700	Beck's	702	+2	0.5	12.5
3774	702	700	Beck's	702	+2	0.5	12.5
3775	702	700	Beck's	702	+2	0.5	12.5
3776	702	700	Beck's	702	+2	0.5	12.5
3777	702	700	Beck's	702	+2	0.5	12.5
3778	702	700	Beck's	702	+2	0.5	12.5
3779	702	700	Beck's	702	+2	0.5	12.5
3780	702	700	Beck's	702	+2	0.5	12.5

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>							
420	280	279	Adnams	280	+1	0.5	12.2
421	280	279	Adnams	280	+1	0.5	12.2
422	280	279	Adnams	280	+1	0.5	12.2
423	280	279	Adnams	280	+1	0.5	12.2
424	280	279	Adnams	280	+1	0.5	12.2
425	280	279	Adnams	280	+1	0.5	12.2
426	280	279	Adnams	280	+1	0.5	12.2
427	280	279	Adnams	280	+1	0.5	12.2
428	280	279	Adnams	280	+1	0.5	12.2
429	280	279	Adnams	280	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>ENGINEERING VEHICLES</b>							
154	100	99	Adnams	100	+1	0.5	12.2
155	100	99	Adnams	100	+1	0.5	12.2
156	100	99	Adnams	100	+1	0.5	12.2
157	100	99	Adnams	100	+1	0.5	12.2
158	100	99	Adnams	100	+1	0.5	12.2
159	100	99	Adnams	100	+1	0.5	12.2
160	100	99	Adnams	100	+1	0.5	12.2
161	100	99	Adnams	100	+1	0.5	12.2
162	100	99	Adnams	100	+1	0.5	12.2
163	100	99	Adnams	100	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>							
355	354	353	All Food	354	+1	0.5	12.5
356	354	353	All Food	354	+1	0.5	12.5
357	354	353	All Food	354	+1	0.5	12.5
358	354	353	All Food	354	+1	0.5	12.5
359	354	353	All Food	354	+1	0.5	12.5
360	354	353	All Food	354	+1	0.5	12.5
361	354	353	All Food	354	+1	0.5	12.5
362	354	353	All Food	354	+1	0.5	12.5
363	354	353	All Food	354	+1	0.5	12.5
364	354	353	All Food	354	+1	0.5	12.5

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>PROPERTY</b>							
57	57	56	Adnams	57	+1	0.5	12.2
58	57	56	Adnams	57	+1	0.5	12.2
59	57	56	Adnams	57	+1	0.5	12.2
60	57	56	Adnams	57	+1	0.5	12.2
61	57	56	Adnams	57	+1	0.5	12.2
62	57	56	Adnams	57	+1	0.5	12.2
63	57	56	Adnams	57	+1	0.5	12.2
64	57	56	Adnams	57	+1	0.5	12.2
65	57	56	Adnams	57	+1	0.5	12.2
66	57	56	Adnams	57	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>							
40	40	39	Adnams	40	+1	0.5	12.2
41	40	39	Adnams	40	+1	0.5	12.2
42	40	39	Adnams	40	+1	0.5	12.2
43	40	39	Adnams	40	+1	0.5	12.2
44	40	39	Adnams	40	+1	0.5	12.2
45	40	39	Adnams	40	+1	0.5	12.2
46	40	39	Adnams	40	+1	0.5	12.2
47	40	39	Adnams	40	+1	0.5	12.2
48	40	39	Adnams	40	+1	0.5	12.2
49	40	39	Adnams	40	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>TEXTILES &amp; APPAREL</b>							
71	71	70	Adnams	71	+1	0.5	12.2
72	71	70	Adnams	71	+1	0.5	12.2
73	71	70	Adnams	71	+1	0.5	12.2
74	71	70	Adnams	71	+1	0.5	12.2
75	71	70	Adnams	71	+1	0.5	12.2
76	71	70	Adnams	71	+1	0.5	12.2
77	71	70	Adnams	71	+1	0.5	12.2
78	71	70	Adnams	71	+1	0.5	12.2
79	71	70	Adnams	71	+1	0.5	12.2
80	71	70	Adnams	71	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>TRANSPORT</b>							
107	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
108	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
109	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
110	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
111	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
112	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
113	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
114	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
115	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
116	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>WATER</b>							
551	551	550	Adnams	551	+1	0.5	12.2
552	551	550	Adnams	551	+1	0.5	12.2
553	551	550	Adnams	551	+1	0.5	12.2
554	551	550	Adnams	551	+1	0.5	12.2
555	551	550	Adnams	551	+1	0.5	12.2
556	551	550	Adnams	551	+1	0.5	12.2
557	551	550	Adnams	551	+1	0.5	12.2
558	551	550	Adnams	551	+1	0.5	12.2
559	551	550	Adnams	551	+1	0.5	12.2
560	551	550	Adnams	551	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET</b>							
107	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
108	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
109	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
110	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
111	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
112	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
113	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
114	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
115	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2
116	107	106	Adnams	107	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>GENERAL</b>							
121	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
122	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
123	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
124	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
125	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
126	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
127	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
128	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
129	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
130	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
<b>INDEX</b>							
121	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
122	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
123	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
124	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
125	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
126	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
127	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
128	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
129	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2
130	121	120	Adnams	121	+1	0.5	12.2

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1997/98	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1998/99	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1999/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2000/01	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2001/02	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2002/03	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2003/04	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2004/05	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2005/06	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2006/07	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2007/08	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2008/09	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2009/10	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2010/11	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2011/12	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2012/13	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2013/14	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2014/15	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2015/16	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2016/17	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2017/18	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2018/19	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2019/20	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2020/21	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2021/22	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2022/23	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2023/24	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2024/25	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2025/26	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2026/27	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2027/28	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2028/29	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2029/30	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2030/31	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2031/32	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2032/33	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2033/34	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2034/35	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2035/36	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2036/37	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2037/38	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2038/39	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2039/40	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2040/41	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2041/42	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2042/43	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2043/44	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2044/45	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2045/46	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2046/47	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2047/48	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2048/49	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2049/50	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2050/51	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2051/52	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2052/53	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2053/54	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2054/55	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2055/56	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2056/57	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2057/58	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2058/59	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2059/60	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2060/61	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2061/62	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2062/63	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2063/64	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2064/65	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2065/66	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2066/67	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2067/68	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2068/69	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2069/70	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2070/71	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2071/72	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2072/73	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2073/74	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2074/75	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2075/76	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2076/77	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2077/78	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2078/79	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2079/80	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2080/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2081/82	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2082/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2083/84	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2084/85	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2085/86	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2086/87	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2087/88	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2088/89	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2089/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2090/91	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2091/92	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2092/93	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2093/94	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2094/95	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2095/96	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2096/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2097/98	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2098/99	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2099/00	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
2100/01	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E



## Conrail war over

The four-month deadlock in the bidding war for Conrail in America has been broken. Conrail has negotiated an increase in the bid by CSX Corp to \$115 a share from \$108, valuing the rail company at \$10.3 billion. Norfolk Southern, a rival bidder that conceded victory to CSX, will be able to buy about half of Conrail's assets from CSX.

## TDG slips

The BSE crisis last year delivered an extra £1 million to profit for Transport Development Group, the logistics and hire company that saw orders to store suspect beef rise. But pre-tax profits fell to £35.2 million (£36.1 million) after the loss of a distribution deal. Earnings rose to 17p a share (16.5p), but the dividend stays at 9.5p, for a final 5.5p.

## Darby rises

Darby Group, the manufacturer and distributor of tempered safety glass, made pre-tax profits of £2.1 million (£955,000) in the year to December 31. Earnings were 6.11p a share (5.33p), and a final dividend of 1.2p makes a total of 2.2p (2p).

## Upbeat Cala

Cala, the housebuilder and commercial property developer, saw pre-tax profits at £2.7 million (£2.1 million) in the half year to December 31. Earnings were 4.21p a share (3.28p). The interim dividend is 1.3p (1.1p).

## Brewery link

Brewery interests in Wales were merged yesterday when SA Brain of Cardiff acquired Crown Bockley of Llanelli for an undisclosed sum. The combined company has 165 pubs.

## Clubs deal

Waterfall Holdings, the snooker clubs operator, has bought 12 clubs from Regent Inns for £4.85 million.



John Robinson, left, and Chris O'Donnell yesterday. Profits were at the low end of analysts' forecasts

# Smith & Nephew warns of more wounds in US

By ERIC REGULY

SMITH & NEPHEW, the healthcare and medical equipment company, warned the market yesterday that it expects another tough trading year in America, its biggest market, as customers continue to demand price reductions.

The company said that prices, on average, fell by 3 per cent in America during 1996, with orthopaedic implants and woundcare products suffering the sharpest falls. John Robinson, chief executive, said: "We have to assume that prices will decline by a similar amount this year."

Prices are falling because customers, notably hospitals,

are banding together to form large buying groups. These HMOs, or health maintenance organisations, are using their market clout to demand volume discounts.

Mr Robinson thinks that the pressure on prices will ease somewhat in 1998. In the meantime, underlying margins are being maintained through cost cutting and sales growth. In the year to the end of December, sales rose by 6 per cent to £1.06 billion.

Pre-tax profits were £182.2 million, compared with £180.4 million, while earnings per share were up by 2 per cent to 11.2p. The results were at the low end of analysts' forecasts. The strength of both sterling

and the dollar compared with the main European currencies depressed profits by 1 per cent and are likely to reduce earnings by about £13 million this year if they remain at their current levels.

Mr Robinson said new products should underpin longer-term growth. Smith & Nephew expects to launch Dermagraft, the first "off-the-shelf" bio-engineered skin, in the American, British and possibly Scandinavian markets in the second half of this year. The product initially will be used to treat diabetic foot ulcers, a market potentially worth £1.5 billion a year.

Smith & Nephew is also developing a bio-engineered

cartilage that could be used to repair the damaged knees of athletes. The company is aiming to launch it in 2000.

Mr Robinson, 56, is to become part-time chairman in July, replacing Eric Kinder. The new chief executive will be Chris O'Donnell, 50, who had been Mr Robinson's deputy. Mr O'Donnell joined the company eight years ago and had been responsible for developing its wound management business.

A final dividend of 3.71p, to be paid on July 2, makes the total dividend 6p, up from 5.65p. The shares closed at 184.4p, down 6.4p.

Times, page 28

## Anger over Renault plan to shed jobs

FROM ADAM SAGE  
IN PARIS

RENAULT, the French car-maker, was facing industrial conflict last night as unions denounced plans to shed almost 3,000 jobs in France.

The move came less than a week after Renault said it would close a Belgian assembly plant at Vilvoorde, near Brussels, with the loss of 3,100 jobs.

As the recently privatised company prepares to announce losses of more than Fr5 billion for 1996, sources close to the management confirmed reports that Renault would cut 2,764 French jobs this year. Renault will also transfer 1,032 positions within the group, the sources said.

The plans sparked a storm in France yesterday, with unions saying that a one-hour stoppage at Renault plants on Friday would herald widespread strikes.

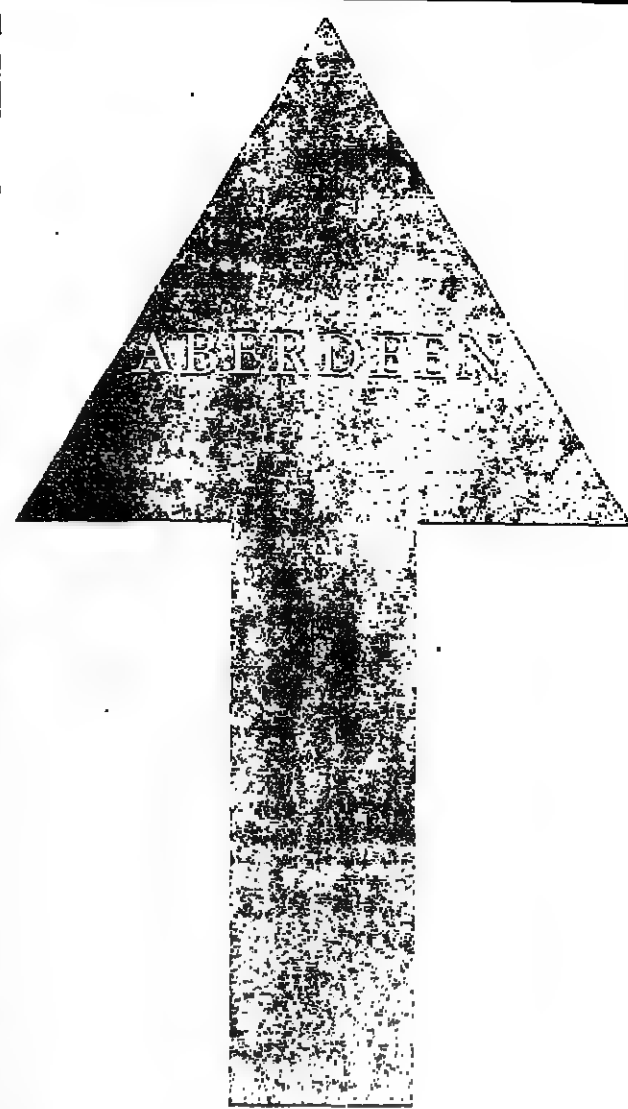
Daniel Richter, of the socialist CFDT union, said: "We hope this is the beginning of a long period of labour struggle at Renault all over Europe."

Franck Borotra, the French Industry Minister, who urged Renault to open negotiations with unions, came under pressure to reconsider the firm's early retirement proposals for 40,000 staff. Under the scheme, which was rejected by the Government last week, Renault said it would replace the older workers with 14,000 younger job-seekers.

The political row echoed criticism of Renault in Belgium, where Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister, has led calls to save the Vilvoorde plant. Belgian unions have called for a boycott of Renault cars and political leaders say they will take legal action against the company.

Renault argues that it has little choice but to streamline. The 1996 results will show a loss for the first time in ten years and, in January, its sales in France fell 20 per cent.

Louis Schweitzer, chairman, says Renault has to cut car prices if it hopes to increase its share of the European market.



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## General Accident plc CONTINUED STRONG PERFORMANCE

### 1996 RESULTS

	1996 £m	1995 £m - restated
General Premiums	4,356	4,227
Life Premiums	1,848	1,508
Underwriting Result	(212)	(130)
Net Investment Income	549	515
Life Profits	108	79
Operating Profit before Taxation	421	436
Profit Attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	500	382
Operating Earnings per Ordinary Share	61.9p	66.5p

- Operating pre-tax profit of £421 million following record fourth quarter.
- Continued underwriting profits in UK.
- Contribution from life operations increased by 37%.
- Underlying results in United States and Canada show continued improvement.
- Underwriting profits in both New Zealand and Asia.
- Final dividend of 22.85p per share making a total of 34.25p per share for the year, up by 10.5%.
- Net asset value up 4% to £3,506 million, equivalent to 675p per share. Solvency margin 79%.



General Accident

Bob Scott, Group Chief Executive, comments:

"We are confident that we can continue to be successful in the competitive and fast moving environments in which our life and general insurance businesses operate."

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DERIVED FROM THE 1996 AND 1995 AUDITED ACCOUNTS

General Accident plc, World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH  
A copy of the results is available on Internet: <http://www.ga.co.uk>

## Merged insurers report profit rises

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

JARDINE Lloyd Thompson Group, the insurance and reinsurance company formed from the merger of JIB and Lloyd Thompson, published their separate results for the last time yesterday. A second interim report for the 12 months to June 30, 1997, will be issued in September.

At Lloyd Thompson, pre-tax interim profits were up 2 per cent to £10.6 million.

The group confirmed that the proposed interim dividend will be 6.25p, payable on May 16, and that the special dividend of 6p per share will be paid as a foreign income dividend on March 5.

JIB announced separate full-year pre-tax profits up 29 per cent to £27.5 million (1995: £21.3 million) and earnings per share up 34 per cent to 13.5p (10.1p).

The company paid a first interim dividend of 3.5p, as a foreign income dividend, on November 18, 1996. A second interim dividend of 5p (net) will be paid on March 5, 1997, to shareholders on the register on January 28, 1997.

The second interim replaces the final dividend, which would have been paid for the year to December 31, 1996. Total dividends for 1996 amount to 8.5p (net).

## Computer Cabs details fare for float

By OLIVER AUGUST

COMPUTER CABS has unveiled details of its flotation on the Alternative Investment Market to raise £3.3 million for a satellite booking system. Shares will be priced at 80p, giving a market capitalisation of £8.25 million.

Cab drivers will be able to buy discounted shares at 72p. They had entangled the company in legal challenges over the ownership of Mobistar, the satellite system that tracks the position of all cabs.

Geoff Kaley, chief executive, said: "Mobistar's leading-edge technology and the ownership of shares in the company by our drivers will further strengthen our business and market position."

The London company has long-term plans to expand to other cities. First dealings are scheduled for April 4.

## Serco growth maintained at steady 20%

By FRASER NELSON

SERCO, the engineering support services company, enjoyed its tenth successive year of 20 per cent growth last year, as orders to maintain privatised railway tracks helped profits to rise to £18.3 million (£15.2 million).

The advance of the Private Finance Initiative, and new orders from the Australian Government, combined to lift sales 23 per cent, to £397 million, over the year, as margins held firm at 13 per cent. Earnings were 18.8p, compared with 15p.

The company, which looks after 20 per cent of Britain's railway tracks, said that sales from its newly acquired train testing ground should be about £40 million next year.

A final dividend of 3.8p brings the total to 5.5p (4.7p), and is due on April 14.

## Regional brewer to be valued at £109m

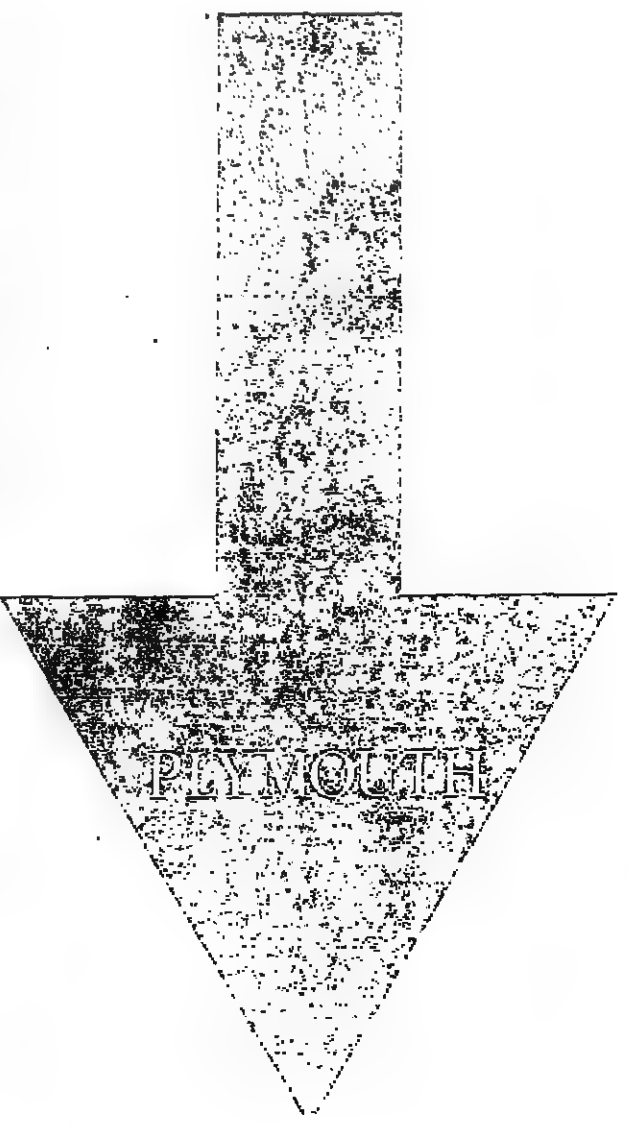
USHERS of Trowbridge, the regional brewing company, yesterday set a flotation price of 110p a share, valuing the company at £109 million (Alasdair Murray writes).

Ushers, which owns a brewery and 542 pubs, hopes to raise £38 million from the float that will be used to strengthen the balance sheet and improve the company's potential for expansion. After the placing, Roger North, chief executive, will hold shares valued at £4

million, while Peter Humphrey, production manager, will control shares worth £3.1 million. The directors will own 8.4 per cent of the total capital worth £9 million.

The venture capital backers, led by Schroder Ventures Fund and SBC Equity Partners, will own 49.3 per cent of the company after flotation.

Ushers made profits of £16.4 million in the year to October 31, 1996. Dealings are expected to commence on March 10.





**THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE**

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## CIRCUS

A sensation in Paris, Philippe Decoufle's surreal and mesmerising *Decodex* makes its British debut



## POP

Paul Rodgers turns the clock back in *Shepherds Bush*, to the delight of his middle-aged fans

## THE TIMES ARTS



## JAZZ

Homage to the late Ronnie Scott comes in a fine gig by Jean Toussaint's New York Vibes



## TOMORROW

Nicholson and Caine in *Blood and Wine*, plus reviews of all the other top new movies

Donald Hutera meets Philippe Decoufle, whose stunning circus-theatre *Decodex* opens here this week

# Ringmaster totally over the Big Top

When *Decodex* opened in the autumn of 1995, Paris was in the middle of a transport strike. Even so, Philippe Decoufle's magic cocktail of choreographed circus-theatre, staged at Bobigny's Maison de la Culture on the city's northeastern edge, was a triumph. Those who couldn't drive got there by bike, on foot, or hitched a ride. The two-month show was an instant sell-out.

The Paris Métro is now running smoothly, but history has otherwise repeated itself: *Decodex* returned to Bobigny in January for four weeks, and by the second night all of the seats had been snapped up. In between, the show has toured throughout Europe to box office and critical acclaim.

But, despite such success, the kaleidoscopic delights of *Decodex* will stop spinning immediately after its performances this week in the Woking Dance Umbrella festival. Or, as Decoufle succinctly puts it: "After that, *Decodex* goes to the garbage."

It is unlikely that the average rubbish bin will have been visited by such delightfully strange refuse. Try to imagine Jules Verne and Lewis Carroll devising a three-dimensional picture-book at the Bauhaus, then deciding to take a break under the Big Top, getting lost, and winding up inside a proscenium arch instead.

Working with the set designer Jean Rabasse (the visual wizard responsible for the peculiarly beautiful look of the films *Delicatessen* and *The City of Lost Children*), and the supremely inventive costume designer Philippe Guillotel, Decoufle has compiled a stage catalogue of surreal marvels. The outcome is a visionary mélange of abstract movement, illusions, gags, acrobatics and Jack-in-the-box discoveries. At heart, though, *Decodex* is a paean to both the limitations and the potential of the human body.

Decoufle has been making work for the stage, film and video since 1983, the year he won first prize at the important Bagnolet choreographic competition. In 1989 he met his feet in the pool of large-scale spectacle, providing some of the movement for France's bicentennial parade. His staging of the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1992 Winter Olympics, in Albertville,



When you do things very precisely, you can speak about crazy ideas

PHILIPPE DECOUFLE

Decoufle earned an international reputation for imaginative flair. His (and Rabasse and Guillotel's) cornucopia of weird, wacky wonders was like a cross between Hieronymus Bosch and Busby Berkeley for the 21st century.

Before that I was not considered a choreographer by people who do dance," Decoufle says. A thin, bespectacled man with fashionably spiky black hair, he is casually

clad in jeans and black sweater. Only the luxurious purple scarf swaddling his neck hints at the flamboyance to be found in his work.

"There is a movement of boring dance in France, an intellectual thing," he continues. "It's very strong. There are beautiful things sometimes, but it's boring. For these people I am like a clown. I should go to a circus, because I'm not an artist."

Since the Olympics, it changes. People now respect me more. Critics are more prudent; they take care more often what they say. Perhaps they now understand that I could be like a bridge between the large audience and the research laboratory.

"Still, they sometimes say my creations are a bad thing — empty, commercial, like video clips for dance. But it's my generation, so why not?"

Decoufle was born in Paris in 1961, to a sociologist father and a mother who is an environmental journalist. At 15, after training in both drama and circus skills, his desire was to be a mime. He studied with Marcel Marceau, and later spent a year in New York on a scholarship with the American dance-theatre magician, Alwin Nikolais.

While there he broadened his artistic horizons via classes in modern dance — and dance video — with the likes of Merce Cunningham. His own subsequent film/video work, running the gamut from pop promos to arthouse dance shorts, has netted him a clutch of international awards.

"Now," he says, with a hesitant neutrality that sends boasting out of the window, "I am perhaps the most popular young choreographer in France."

Decoufle's source of inspiration for *Decodex* is a 1970s book, *Le Codex Seraphinien* by the Italian artist Luigi Seraphini. Decoufle



One of the creatures that inhabit the mind of Philippe Decoufle and the stage of *Decodex*, a huge success in France

stumbled upon it in New York. "This book is completely crazy," he says. "Seraphini one day decided to begin it. He was in a little room. He closed his door for two years. People were bringing him food. He did that book, and it's a masterpiece."

"It's written in a language which doesn't exist, so you understand nothing. But there are a lot of drawings everywhere, there are ideas everywhere. For me, I discovered that when you do things very precisely, you can speak about anything, about completely crazy ideas."

He tears off a corner of the

paper tablecloth and squeezes it greedily. "You can speak about that, and if you do it in a beautiful way it can be spectacular. It can be marvelous."

*Decodex* starts with a warm-up act between a Dumbo-eared, deadpan funny tall guy and a little platinum-haired fella of a gamin. All along it capitalises on Decoufle's infatuation with the tension between miniaturism and gigantism. "I try to follow a way from the very small to the very big," he says. "Going from the microbes to plants, to parts of the body, to the planets and movements of things in the sky."

"The show," he adds, almost as an afterthought, "is also a trip inside the human body." Hence Guillotel's costumes: some feature externalised representations of human bones, muscles and organs, while others — with pleated elephant trunks or spotted, Hoover-type tentacles, fringed flippers and transparent, Saturn-style rings — suggest goofy versions of what can be studied under a microscope.

Three years ago Decoufle's Compagnie DCA was accorded a 12-year contract by the Parisian suburb of Saint-Denis. There, in a converted boiler room, he develops his

work. "More and more I want to make visual things, like a phantasmagoria," he says. "I think I go away, slowly, from dance. In two years I am going to choreograph a show for Cirque du Soleil; it's interesting for me to work for a big circus."

"After that I would like to direct musicals on film, because right now there is nothing modern there and I think I can touch another audience. And I love cinema. It's one of my passions. Modern dance, no."

*Decodex* is at the New Victoria Theatre, Woking (01483 76144) from tomorrow to Sat

## Bebop a lulu

ONE of the defining moments of the upsurge of interest in jazz in the mid 1980s was provided by the appearance of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers at London's Shaw Theatre, jamming with a number of the country's up-and-coming musicians, Courtney Pine and Gail Thompson prominent among them.

Blakey's tenor saxophonist on that occasion, Jean Toussaint, later settled in England, and has become a stalwart of the London jazz scene. For this concert, he was joined by two other Blakey alumni, trumpeter Terence Blanchard and pianist Mulgrew Miller, in a

## JAZZ

New York Vibes  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

band completed by bassist Reginald Veal and drummer Lewis Nash.

Toussaint has become something of a local favourite during his decade in the UK, and just how thoroughly he reciprocates this feeling was immediately demonstrated by his choice of subjects for his Arts Council-commissioned compositions.

One for *Ronnie*, a strident hard-bop theme in the Messengers' mould, was dedicated to the late Ronnie Scott. *Glimpses from a Double-decker* and *Piccadilly Fanfare*, both suitably bustling, impressionistic pieces, showed off Toussaint's knack of writing immediately attractive themes packed with just enough subtly displaced accents and rhythmic twists to challenge his soloists.

Blanchard, a fluent, pure-toned trumpeter, responded with typical brio, imbuing the Toussaint pieces with irresistible pep and bounce, and almost stealing the show with a superb feature, *You Don't Know What Love Is*. Miller's sly solo comments on Toussaint's tunes, and his idiosyncratically jaunty trio rendition of *If I Should Lose You*, confirmed his growing reputation as one of the most individual piano voices in the music. The rhythm section had all the snap and control customarily associated with the city of their band-tide.

But it was Toussaint who starred. He is one of the most pleasing tenor tones around: warm when required, but always vigorously muscular.

CHRIS PARKER

## Massive swing to old labour

PAUL RODGERS is the singer Tony Blair wanted to sound like when the Labour leader was an aspiring rock star in a university band called Ugly Rumours. Whether Blair would still feel the same if he had witnessed his hero at the *Shepherds Bush Empire* is doubtful. You don't need to aspire to running the country to feel deeply disconcerted by an audience of men in their forties playing air guitar.

The former Free frontman is about as relevant to current musical trends as a 1970s socialist manifesto is to new Labour. Rodgers' old band first entered the charts in the week Harold Wilson lost the general election to Edward Heath, and the world has changed dramatically since — except for Rodgers. As Blair contemplates taking Britain into a common currency, the singer swings a microphone stand around his head exactly as he did before we went decimal.

But Rodgers is in tune with his audience. He sings a

couple of journeyman numbers from his so-so new album, and then it is down to the serious business. He knows we are disciples of the old school, there to hear those venerable Free classics. Wild cheers greet *The Stealer*, *Fire and Water* and *Mr Big* — and they still sound pretty fine after all these years.

Of course, it is not quite the same as when you were 16

POP  
Paul Rodgers  
Empire, W12

His tone is faster and less supple and he does his own thing solidly, without ever inspiring. The rhythm section of Jaz Lochrie and Jim Copley drives the juggernaut with conviction, and if Rodgers' voice has lost a little of that tough gristle there is still a

flintiness that Blair's Oxford tones could never emulate. The singer sounded nowhere better than on *Wishing Well*, Blair's own particular desert island favourite. But if things go well on the night of May 1, the Labour leader could be forgiven if it is *All Right Now*. Rodgers' inevitable encore, that he mimes in front of the bedroom mirror before finally turning in.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

## Sadly giving back the keys

A House  
Dublin

BREAKING up is indeed hard to do, as A House found out last Friday night when they played an emotionally charged farewell gig in their home town.

The band has always enjoyed a passionate following, and the mood of celebration at the Olympia was tempered by a sense of sadness that grew more pronounced as the show wore on, leaving grown men

and women in tears by the time the final curtain came down. For these faithful fans, the show probably spelt the end of an integral part of their adolescence as much as it signalled the dissolution of a pop group.

The evening had started in a low-key manner, with a short acoustic set by Harvest Ministers. Local indie darlings Revelino, who count John Peel among their fans, were also on the bill. Their sturdy, if unspectacular, brand of classic guitar-pop revealed a group au fait with the dynamics of melody, vocal harmony and traditional song structure, especially *Radio Speaks* and *Happiness is Mine*, which have the Byrds and the Pixies, respectively, as their tutors. To judge by the critical plaudits bestowed upon their second album, *Broadcaster*, Revelino could just graduate with chart honours.

Mainstream commercial success eluded A House to an almost Pimprenellian degree.

Their career spanned 12 years, five albums and three record companies, but to little chart success. Between the opening salvo, *Kick Me Again*, *Jesus* (their first and arguably finest single) and the closing stubborn declaration, *I Can't Change* (from last year's swansong *No More Apologies*), cells from every organ of A House's imperfect body of work were re-animated.

The haunting cadence of the bruised *cry de coeur*, *When I Last Saw You*, would put a lump in the most hardened of throats, but Dave Couse's unashamedly confessional mode of songwriting often crossed the line between profundity and triteness, as on *Cry Easily*, for example.

Couse himself has never harboured doubts about his ability to transform feelings of vulnerability and emotional insecurity into poignant artistic expression. He remains, however, a decidedly affable character by virtue of his acerbic, ironic Dublin wit. Rest assured he will be back in some shape or form to wipe those tears away.

NICK KELLY

### GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

TOM SAPSFORD



Age: 21

Profession: Dancer and choreographer.

Standard beginnings: Trained at the Royal Ballet School from the age of 11; joined the Royal Ballet at 18.

Professional debut a wash-out: He choreographed a piece for Dances for Elephants, a 1994 tour by Royal Ballet dancers to Kenya in aid of wildlife. "I had my dancers wearing 1920s flapper dresses and moving to music by the Inkspots. But there was a rainstorm which submerged the stage in about two inches of water."

Second time lucky: His *Odalisque* solo for the Royal Ballet's 1996 Dance Bites tour was respectable enough to earn him a second commission this year (catch it at the Swan in High Wycombe this week; at the Theatre Royal in Bath Monday and Tuesday). "It's set in a rave club backroom, but it's about nightclubbing in general. The music is electric guitar and computer-generated tape, kind of grunge. The characters are from the different sorts of club scenes. It's the kind of piece that could never be done at Covent Garden."

Happy in his job? You bet. "A company that gives a 21-year-old 20 minutes of prime space is quite rare. Dance Bites is a chance to try things out. One of the good things about the mini tour is that you get to deal with a different kind of space, one closer to the audience. You get more involved."

Personal agenda: "I am trying to do something that is relevant to people my age, people who wouldn't go to see ballet but would see modern dance. There's a different pace in a lot of the culture today, very rapid. I want to get the feeling of the five-second attention span. I am trying to make a ballet work like that: short and rapidly changing."

What about his own attention span? "I take great joy in sitting down and channel flicking on the television. There is such a strange, odd combination of things that if you keep going all night you will see the most bizarre things. There is an art to channel surfing. You can make up a whole programme just by channel surfing. I can play Beavis and Butt-head all by myself."

DEBRA CRAINE

Friday 7 March 7.30pm  
Schubert  
Gidon Kremer violin  
Chamber Concert  
featuring The Trout Quintet  
Harrison Piano Quartet,  
19th November 1828  
Schubert String Trio  
Schubert Piano Quintet, D667 The Trout  
Veronika Hagen Viola  
Clemens Hagen Cello  
Alois Fiech Double Bass  
Oleg Malsenborg Piano  
Barbican Centre  
0171 638 8891 (Mon - Sun only)  
Tickets £6 £10 £14 £18

PREVIEWS FROM 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
OPENS 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL '97  
GARY WILMOT  
ANN CRUMB  
IN  
THE NEW MUSICAL  
THE GOODBYE GIRL  
WITH MARVIN HANAUSSCH  
AND DAVID ZEPPEL  
DIRECTED BY ROB BETTINSON  
ALBERY THEATRE  
BOX OFFICE  
0171 369 1730





## CHOICE 1

**Jean Rigby sings in the Nash Ensemble's concert of new music**

VENUE: Tonight at the Purcell Room



## CHOICE 2

**... while, in Birmingham, Sir Simon Rattle harks back to the Sixties**

VENUE: Tonight at Symphony Hall



## CHOICE 3

**The rare Tennessee Williams drama, *Out Cry*, goes on the road**

VENUE: This week at the Everyman, Cheltenham



## CHOICE 4

**At the Coliseum, Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* benefits little from Martha Clarke's treatment**

VENUE: Tonight at the Coliseum



## CHOICE 5

**Deep in the country**

VENUE: Tonight at the Guildhall



## CHOICE 6

**Deep in the country**

VENUE: Tonight at the Guildhall

## LONDON

**BIRDY** Northern Exposure actor Rob Morrow joins Kevin Knight in cast in Naama Waisman's fascinating version of the William Wharton novel, a psychologically damaged GI (Matthew West) believes he is a bird. *Or does he?* Comedy, Fanny Street, SW1 (0171-369 1751). Opens tonight, 7pm. Mon-Sat 8pm. mat. Thurs. 3pm, Sat. 5pm.

**TOSCA** Robert Down Jones conducts the Royal Opera in a revival of Puccini's impassioned story of the fiery temperamental opera diva. The Russian soprano Maria Guleghina returns to Covent Garden to sing her first Tosca with the company, with Keith Olson as Cavaradossi. Sergei Leiferkus and Simon Cross share the role of Scarpia. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then March 7, 11, 13, 17 and 20.

**THE TWENTIETH CENTURY MUSIC SERIES** This evening's recital begins with Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1. The mezzo-soprano Jean Rigby turns the Nash Ensemble for Nicholas Maw's Roman cantata for mezzo-soprano, flute, viola and harp based on a poem by Robert Browning. And Sir Simon Rattle conducts the Nash Ensemble in a new work for flute, clarinet, harp and string quartet and Sally Beamish's

**AMERICAN BUFFALO** Douglas Henshall, Neil Stuke and Nicholas Woodson play the small-time crooks in David Mamet's gripping drama. Great dialogue. Lindsay Hogg directs. Young Vic, 16 The Oval, SE1 (0171-853 8333). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Wed (March 12, 19) and Sat (March 15, 22, 29) 4pm, 2.30pm. Sun-Sat, 5pm.

**ART** Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ian Sturt in an exceptionally moving drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white canvas. *Manoeuvre* directed by David Yates. Last week for present cast. Wyndham's Theatre, Shaftesbury Road, WC2 (0171-397 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm. mat. Wed, 3pm. Sun and Sat, 5pm.

**CARDIFF EAST** Kenneth Cranham, Neil Stuke and Nicholas Woodson play the small-time crooks in David Mamet's gripping drama. Great dialogue. Lindsay Hogg directs. Young Vic, 16 The Oval, SE1 (0171-853 8333). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Wed (March 12, 19) and Sat (March 15, 22, 29) 4pm, 2.30pm. Sun-Sat, 5pm.

**IVANOV** Ralph Fiennes heads a splendid cast that includes Hamlet Walter and Oliver Ford Davies. In Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4040). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mat. Sat, 3pm.

**ST NICHOLAS** Brian Cox plays a smug theatre critic who talks for a long

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

**Between Earth and Sea** for flute, viola and harp with Shula Kanga, harp. The conductor is Martin Brabbins. Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (0171-850 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

## ELSEWHERE

**BIRMINGHAM** Sir Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's Ninth. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then March 7, 11, 13, 17 and 20.

**CHILTERNHAM** The anniversary of the founding of the Chiltern Music Festival. The festival presents the British premiere of Tennessee Williams's compelling psychological drama, *Out Cry*. Directed by Timothy Walker. Everyman, Regent Street (01242 5725 01). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then tomorrow and Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 4pm and 8pm. Until March 8.

## THEATRE GUIDE

**Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London**

**House full, return only** Seats at all prices

**ACTRESS**, which probably doesn't prove a good movie. One-man play written and directed by Conor McPherson, author of last year's well-received three-monologue play *This Line Trip Stower*. Bush, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0171-435 3589). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

**THE STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE** Jessica Lange and Toby Stephens in an excellent production of Tennessee Williams's play. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-303 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

**THREE HOURS AFTER MARRIAGE** Eighteenth-century comedy by Day, Pope and Abbot, not

## DUNDEE

The conductor Tadeusz Olski makes his Royal Scottish National Orchestra debut in first evening's concert at the Caird Hall. The programme begins with Tchaikovsky's *How Slow the Wind* and includes Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor and Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. Royal Scottish National Orchestra in the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, on Friday (01382 434940). Tonight, 7.30pm.

## NEWCASTLE

Mark Murphy's V-Tel Dance Company performs *Force of Fantasy*. Playhouse, Haymarket (0191-230 5151). Today-Fri, 8pm.

## LONDON GALLERIES

**Annely Juda**, Nathan Cohen (0171-257 7578). **Barbican**, Revelation—Tudor Artists Addressing Issues (0171-332 4141). **Britain**, Mississauga: Helen of Rome: The Shaping of Britain AD400-900 (0171-335 1559). **Christie's**, The Book of Hours (0171-236 0500). **Harriet Green**, "Feed" Contemporary Print in Ceramics (0171-267 8528). **Liverpool**, Alexander, William Ireland and Oliver Cant (0171-820 1323). **National Portrait**, Augustus (0171-300 0169). **Royal Over-Seas League**, Stuart Robertson (0171-408 0214).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

**Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and beyond. Indicated with the symbol \***

**on release across the country**

**THE CRUCIBLE** (12). Wegley version of Arthur Miller's play about 17th-century witchcraft, with Winona Ryder, Daniel Day-Lewis and, best of all, Paul Scofield. Director, Nicholas Hyman. Barbican (0171-638 8801). Odeon, Kensington (0181-315 4214). Leicester Square (0181-315 4215). Marble Arch (0181-315 4216). Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4217). UCI Whiteleys (0171-352 5121). UCI Whiteleys (0171-352 5121).

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## OPERA: Martha Clarke's Gluck for ENO; Bizet in Paris; Dvořák at the Guildhall

## Chorus in the dark

Just when everyone is beginning to agree that the Coliseum is too large for much of the operatic repertoire and a difficult acoustic for words, along comes an intimate chamber opera that fills the theatre: *Orpheus and Eurydice*, sung with uncommon clarity in a smart translation by Anne Ridler. Gluck's masterpiece, long absent from London's stages, is one of the simplest of all operas, and whatever else the producer does with it, she finds a way of projecting its honest, beautiful simplicity in this big space.





## THEATRE 1

Meeting of minds:  
Tony Kushner and  
Ariel Dorfman  
collaborate on  
the writing of  
a new play



## THEATRE 2

The mind-set of  
the middle-aged  
lady is explored  
in an Irish play,  
*Women on the  
Verge of HRT*

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## MUSIC

Georg Solti  
conducts in  
Manchester,  
and gives his  
approval to  
Bridgewater Hall



## OFFER

Special prices for  
a remarkable  
fasting of  
*Faust*: see the  
Theatre Club  
panel for details

THEATRE: The families of Chile's 'disappeared' find a dramatic voice in Cambridge; plus reviews

## Back from the vanishing point

Ariel Dorfman  
tells Daniel  
Rosenthal about  
the long genesis of  
his play *Widows*

Ariel Dorfman took just three weeks to write *Death and the Maiden*. So it seems hard to believe that he should have required seven years and assistance from another dramatist to refine an earlier play, which also focuses unerringly on the victims and villains of Latin American dictatorship.

Yet in 1988, the Argentine-born author was deeply dissatisfied with the initial stage version of his novel, *Widows*—so much so that he agreed to rewrite it with a man he had never heard of, Tony Kushner, the New Yorker on the brink of international success with his AIDS epic, *Angels in America*.

The compelling product of their collaboration was first performed in Los Angeles six years ago, and finally receives its European premiere in Cambridge tonight, in a Traverse Theatre production directed by Ian Brown.

Like *Death and the Maiden*, *Widows* is set in an unnamed Latin American country at a time of uneasy transition from totalitarianism to democracy. Where the former derived its power from the experiences of political prisoners and their torturers, *Widows* gives voice to the mothers, wives and daughters of "the disappeared", the thousands snatched from their homes by the secret police in Chile, Argentina and beyond.

In Camacho, a town where every man has disappeared, two battered, unrecognisable male corpses materialise in the river. Sofia Fuentes, an elderly peasant, claims them as her missing husband and father, bringing herself and, eventually, all of the waiting women into conflict with a conscience-stricken but implacable army captain.

Dorfman has been "obsessed" by the disappeared since 1973, when General Pinochet's coup in Chile forced him and his young family into exile. "Democracy has returned to Chile, but I still have friends who are missing," he says. "The women in *Widows* experience the worst horror imaginable: not knowing if your loved one is alive or dead."

The defiant old woman and the quasi-mythical river which gives back its dead first appeared in Dorfman's 1976 poem, *Identity*. Two years later, writing in Spanish, he began to expand the story into a novel. He transplanted the action to



Ariel Dorfman's *Widows*, in collaboration with Tony Kushner, receives its European premiere tonight

1940s Greece to give it a *Crucible*-like distance from more contemporary horrors, and thereby give the book a better (though unrealistic) hope of appearing under a pseudonym in Chile, where his work was banned.

In 1986, he returned the action to Latin America for a stage adaptation, which was premiered in Fort Worth, Texas, two years later, winning a best new play award. But even after numerous rewrites, Dorfman felt

something was fundamentally wrong with his play. *Death and the Maiden* would prove much easier to write because he was "not adapting something which already worked in another form": with *Widows*, he remained "too enmeshed" in his Spanish prose narrative to produce effective drama in English. Hence, at the suggestion of director Bob Egan, the introduction to Kushner.

At first glance, they seem an unlikely pairing. "Tony is wholly North American and rooted in the theatre; I'm a bilingual Latin American who's spent most of his life on prose and poetry," says Dorfman.

"Ariel writes very fast, like a dynamo; I work slowly and am hugely undisciplined," says Kushner. Politically, however, they had similar preoccupations. Kushner admired Dorfman's anti-Pinochet activism and had joined Amnesty

International demonstrations in New York, marching to the Chilean Embassy with the photograph of a disappeared girl around his neck. Dorfman recalls how they also "shared common ground aesthetically, both believing that political theatre must not simply inform and denounce, it must engage the audience's imagination".

Kushner found *Widows*, the novel, "immensely dramatic, with a simplicity of narrative that resembles Greek tragedy" (it contains deliberate echoes of *The Trojan Women* and *Antigone*). "I wrote a stage version which was more argumentative than Ariel's. He thought it interesting but wanted a more collaborative process."

"We spent seven days at his home in Durham, North Carolina, working more intensively than I've ever worked before or since. I typed and Ariel paced. We'd write a few lines, read them aloud, then write some more. We changed the opening and the whole rhythm. Whenever we got stuck, we devised solutions that differed from what either of us had originally advocated," Dorfman says. Kushner freed him from his personal involvement in the story: "Tony was enormously helpful. He was the play's midwife."

*Widows*, "by Ariel Dorfman with Tony Kushner", opened in LA in 1991, but its evolution was still incomplete. The remarkable simultaneous triumphs of *Death and the Maiden* and *Angels in America* meant both authors were too busy to give *Widows* the additional rewrite Dorfman wanted. Kushner eventually said: "Ariel, it's your play, you should do what you want with it."

Dorfman was finally spurred into action in 1993 by a phone call from Brown, expressing his desire to stage *Widows* in Edinburgh. He made some of the dialogue "more magical" and introduced a partially autobiographical narrator, a Latin American exile who "witnesses the action from afar". At last, he had reached what might be termed a *Widows* peak.

Kushner looks back on the collaboration as "a great experience", but it remains the only writing partnership of his career. Dorfman, describing himself as "extremely flexible", continually juggles projects, several of which have involved his two sons. With Rodrigo, 30, he recently finished a play satirising Hollywood. With Joaquin, 18, he has completed a film script called *Playing it Cool*. "I helped Joaquin to develop the central character," he explains. "Let's say I was his Tony Kushner."

*Widows*, supported by Barclays Stage Partners, is at Cambridge Arts 01223 302339, tonight until Saturday, Oxford Playhouse 01865 788000, March 1-15; Newcastle Playhouse 0191 230 5151, March 18-22; Traverse, Edinburgh 0131 226 1404, March 25-April 6

## CONCERTS

## Only project

"YOU are very lucky," Sir Georg Solti announced at the end of his concert with the BBC Philharmonic. "You have a beautiful hall." Well, yes it is from some acoustic angles and some points of view. But, as he himself seemed to realise on his first experience of the Bridgewater Hall with an audience in it, however good the sound on the platform, an orchestra must still make a conscious effort to project into the auditorium.

The Prelude to Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina* (in the Rimsky-Korsakov version), though not entirely lacking in early-morning atmosphere, was too even both texturally and structurally. That was at the beginning of the concert. After the interval in Shostakovich's Fifteenth Symphony, which was presented not only with the rhythmic intensity so characteristic of this conductor but also with each event weighed exactly according to its importance. The details were so clear and the climaxes so firmly placed that, whatever the meaning of this enigmatic work, everyone had the opportunity to come to a well informed conclusion about it.

Solti's own opinion is clearly

BBCPO/Solti  
Manchester

that, however playful the first movement might be, Shostakovich's last symphony is neither an intellectual tease nor, like the Ninth, a cheerful evasion of serious issues. For him the heart of the work is its funeral *Adagio*, where the expressively liberated and eloquently played cello solos said it all. The rest of the work fell into place round that formative experience. The ending, though consolatory, was also eerily and uneasily unreal.

The item at the centre of this elegantly planned programme of Mussorgsky and Shostakovich was the latter's orchestral version of the former's *Songs and Dances of Death*. Although the arrangement might be disproportionate to the scale of the songs, it is certainly true to their sound. With a singer as well equipped as Sergei Alexashkin to take advantage of the situation, it also adds a powerfully dramatic dimension to the comparatively modest ambition of the original.

GERALD LARNER

## Edge of the abyss

Philharmonia/  
Dohnányi  
Festival Hall

CHRISTOPH von Dohnányi's pair of concerts with the Philharmonia this week offer both celebration and challenging reassessment of Schubert in his bicentenary year. While tonight's will test the notions of "finished" and "unfinished" symphonies, Sunday's throw new light on the most emphatically completed of them all: the "Great C major".

Only within the last decade have conductors and orchestras really dared not to take the figure nine and the tag "Great" at stolid and over-reverent face value. Schubert knew well that divine play was also a part of honour, and the Philharmonia and Dohnányi duly made the finale a brightly coloured mosaic of Beethovenian allusion.

Right at the start, Dohnányi showed himself alert to the latest musical wisdom by finding just two light beats for the springing horn and the woodwind chords of the opening *Andante*—and maintaining the same pulse through into the *Allegro*.

Oboe and clarinet were dreaming wanderers over the determined footfall of the second movement and, although Dohnányi's tendency to dip a rhythmic wing or two showed itself at times, the amassing of the fearsome diminished chords which leads to the movement's denouement was concentrated enough to bring the music to the very edge of the abyss.

The focus on the woodwind as an occasional and independent band of serenaders had been cleverly anticipated in the choice of Mozart's C minor Piano Concerto K491 before the interval. Murray Perahia is clearly falling in love with this repertoire all over again. This was a performance of exceptional beauty, subdued yet incisive, and quietly confident enough to free the slow movement to sing out in utter simplicity, and to take a bold, decisive lead in the finale's complex variations.

HILARY FINCH

## Crushes at the end of passion

What goes through the heads of the middle-aged women who rush up to the footlights at the end of *Heartbreak* in order to be very, very close to Cliff Richard? Well, Marie Jones's *Women on the Verge of HRT* (at the Vaudeville) provides plausible answers.

Women reaching their half-century sometimes find fantasy substitutes for men who are boorish, neglectful or just plain missing. For them, the Cliffs and Daniel O'Donnells are a blend of Prozac and powdered rhino horn: aphrodisiacs that simultaneously lull and thrill.

Jones's sometimes attractive, sometimes samey, play opens with filmed interviews of middle-aged women at an O'Donnell concert. They like him a lot. Then up go the stage-lights and, lo, a hotel room occupied by two friends who like him still more. One, Anna, has brought a pillow case with his photograph on it. The other, Vera, broods about the husband who abandoned her for a much younger woman, and feels she is fit only for a "sex scrapheap", followed by a "sex hospice".

Some of Vera's lines are good, and Jones, who herself plays the part, puts them over with a sulky swagger. But they have become repetitive well before Eileen Pollock's quieter, sadder Anna accuses her of being boring. Since the first act consists of her complaints, Anna's revelation that her own husband has not had sex with her for years, and the appearance of Dessie Gallagher as a young waiter who does conjuring tricks and sings romantic ballads, the interval does not come too soon.

The second act, which whisks the women to a beach at dawn, is rather more eventful and substantial. While a banshee wails offstage, the



Eileen Pollock, Marie Jones and Dessie Gallagher examine the woman's lot in love

waiter transmutes into a series of characters from the women's native Belfast: rejecting husband, philandering husband; young wife who has chosen an older spouse in the belief he will not abandon her; older wife who is prepared to trade love for the show of marital respectability.

What does this mix of realism and jiggery-pokery achieve? Well, it allows Jones to present a cross-section of disillusion and cynicism. What are women who dislike their men but fear loneliness to do? What kind of sex life can the older woman expect? Why should men find it easier to find new partners than they do? Good questions. I guess; but it is a pity that Darby and Joan figure nowhere in Jones's personal mythology.

BENEDICT  
NIGHTINGALE

## Away the lads

FOOTBALL has dribbled into the zeitgeist of the chattering classes, so it's hardly surprising that it has become something of a theatrical fetish.

In *Golden Own Goal*, Paul Pavitt's farce at the Old Red Lion, the old battle lines between the sexes are invoked when Dave and Stu persuade their respective partners, Nicky and Toni, that they should part during the 1996 European championship—the lads to watch the entire tournament on TV at Stu's place, the women to unpack their marriages at Dave's.

Goals, mostly own goals, are scored by both teams as their relationships fall apart in the heat of the moment. Alistair Galbraith's Dave is a gambling building contractor;

J. Simpson's Stu is a dim, Chelsea-road brickie. They are unreconstructed slob; selfish, racist and criminally ignorant about their wives. The women are handled with slightly more grace. "What's smart casual?" asks Debby Bishop's Toni. "Where I come from it means you shave your legs," says Liz Edmond's Nicky.

But while Pavitt's observations on these working-class relationships may be crushing, his insights on selfishness and honesty are strictly limited; the effect is like pounding a blanchmange with a sledgehammer. Nevertheless, the whole thing is stuck together with great good humour by Ken McClymont.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

## THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

LONDON  
Criterion Theatre  
To Mar 30

● NOW in its second year of putting the shake into Shakespeare, *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* (abridged) sees the three members of the Reduced Shakespeare Company race through all 37 plays in just 97 minutes. Impossible! Just go along and find out. On Tuesdays, the RSC jumps the Atlantic to present *The Complete History of America* (abridged), a racy précis of New World activities, from Columbus to Clinton. Theatre Club members can buy two top-priced seats (normally £20) for the price of one for both shows. Tel 0171-369 1747, quoting your membership number

Chicken Shed Theatre  
Mar 10-13

● WHILE encouraging young people from all backgrounds to realise their artistic potential, Chicken Shed Theatre has produced some inspiring performances. In the company's latest production, the dance works *The Ancient Mariner* and *The King's Web* provide a marvellous evening of entertainment. Two £7.50 tickets for the price of one. Tel 0181-449 1155

St John's Smith Square  
Mar 25

● CONDUCTED by Ronald Corp, the New London Orchestra plays *British Light Music Classics*, a musical look back at the days when millions tuned

THE TIMES  
THEATRE  
CLUB

into the Light Programme for entertainment, rather than turning on the television set. Hum along to the signature tunes to everything from *The Archers* to *Children's Hour*. Two £8 or £10 tickets for the price of one. Tel 0171-823 5523

## ON TOUR

● THE Actors Touring Company presents a radically new version of *Faust*. Forget Marlowe and Coeche, this production is a combination of video and live theatre as the doctor follows a trail of violence and hedonism across America. Join the cavalcade on tour at:

GAINSBOROUGH  
Trinity Arts Centre  
Mar 18-19. Tickets £4.50 (normally £6). Tel 01427 810710

LEIGHTON BUZZARD  
Leighton Buzzard Theatre  
Mar 21. Tickets £5.50 (normally £6.50). Tel 01525 378310

KING'S LYNN  
King's Lynn Arts Centre  
Apr 10. Tickets £5. Tel 01553 773578

CAMBRIDGE  
Cambridge Drama Studio  
Apr 11-12. Tickets £4.75 (normally £6.75). Tel 01223 322748

CRAWLEY  
Hawth Studio  
Apr 14. Tickets £5 (normally £7). Tel 01293 553636

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2184, Colchester CO2 1L, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

## EXCLUSIVE OFFER - THE TIMES

A FREE  
sampler CD

Readers of *The Times* are offered a FREE sampler CD featuring four tracks from *The English Patient*. The original soundtrack has been nominated for an Academy Award and recently won the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score.

The four tracks on the sampler are *The English Patient*; *Rupert Bear*; *Convento Di Sant' Anna* and *As Far as Florence*.

Gabriel Yared composed the film's score, performed here by the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and featuring pianist John Constable, vocalist Marta Sebastian and conductor Harry Rabinowitz. The compilation CD is interspersed with extracts from the Macmillan audio book of *The English Patient*, which was abridged by Michael Ondaatje himself. The extracts are read by Ralph Fiennes.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE CD  
Collect four of the six free CD tokens appearing in *The Times* this week. Send them, together with a 50p stamp and the application form which will appear tomorrow.

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CHANGING TIMES







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## La Crème de la Crème

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...City...City...City...City...City...City...City...City...

**Rugby Days!!  
Team Secretary  
£17,000**

This is an exciting opening for a young and enthusiastic secretary to work for two dynamic Directors of this European Bank. The role will be varied, and to accompany the secretarial content you will be organising events such as wine tasting evenings and rugby days. You will be on the ball and able to use your own initiative. Skills: 5 wpm / Word for Windows. Please call Lucy Davis.

**American  
Dynamo  
£18,000**

Great opportunity for a second jobber to join this growing investment bank. You will support a team of busy and fun American bankers, co-ordinating their itineraries and creating presentations. You must be a confident team player, a quick thinker with a good sense of humour. Skills: 40 wpm / computer literacy. Please call Katy Burke.

**Human Resources  
Administrator  
£20,000**

Are you hungry for your next step up? In this involved role you work as the administrator in the HR department co-ordinating everything from interviews and induction packs through to appraisals and dealing with temps. Use Word for Windows / Excel and proven communication skills in this challenging role. Age 22-30. Please call Kila Felton-Smith.

**Action Packed  
£18 - 20,000  
SW1**

International Management consultants are looking for a young, dynamic secretary to work for two MD's and run the small London office. You will be juggling priorities including typing presentations, liaising internationally and managing the office. Speed, accuracy and WP literacy essential to become part of this friendly & busy team. Immediately available! Please call Camilla Loughnan.

**2nd Jobber  
£15 - 18,000  
W1**

Young professional Executive Search company based in stunning offices need a smart corporate team secretary to assist three busy guys. Your confidence, enthusiasm and good solid skills will equip you to meet this challenge. You must have 55 wpm and Word for Windows experience. Please call Tara Lyons.

**Sec/Graduate  
£24,000 Pkg  
W1**

Top consultant of blue chip, international headhunting needs a proactive, intelligent secretary. This is a stimulating and varied role working at Board level with scope for plenty of involvement and some research. Excellent educational background, degree preferred, sound secretarial experience, fast audio typing (60+ wpm) and computer literacy essential. Spanish or French useful. Please call Elizabeth Wood.

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Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

Telephone: 0171-434 4512 Fax: 0171-437 9239

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**PERSONNEL**  
Young, vibrant secretary with good typing skills (60+ wpm) and computer literacy. Excellent communication skills. Salary: £15,000 - £18,000. Please call Lucy Davis.

**Senior Secretary**  
Recently established, fast growing company. Excellent salary and benefits. Please call Lucy Davis.

**BLUE CHIP OPPORTUNITIES****Up to £22,000 Package**

Well respected PAs and Team Secretaries are required to work for a dynamic team in the corporate headquarters of a high profile international company. Responsibilities are varied and include managing complex diary schedules and travel itineraries, organising conferences and ensuring all projects are completed on time. Acting as a focal point of contact for both internal and external clients, you will need to provide your own initiative and be a team player. There are a number of openings which will be starting immediately, so if you are looking for a long term career with a view to becoming a permanent employee, you will be able to show evidence of your organisational skills and ability to juggle responsibilities within a successful role. You will also have knowledge of Windows based software and a typing speed of 50 wpm. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview. If you enjoy working in a busy environment and are looking for a new challenge please call us now.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

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**INNOVATIVE TEAM PLAYER****£21,000 Package including overtime**

An international company based in the West End is looking for high calibre individuals to provide outstanding support to their global management team. You will need a confident, organised and administrative skills to manage complex diaries, arrange conferences and meetings for your senior project team. You must be a team player, a good listener and able to work under a high pressure environment, with a flexible, hard working and positive approach to your role. Your excellent secretarial and communication skills will be fully utilised and your willingness to learn will be rewarded with additional responsibility. The innovative style of working will suit candidates with previous team experience who are keen to develop their team and people management skills. Skills of 50 wpm typing, W4W, Excel and PowerPoint are essential.

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(& THAT'S JUST THE MUSIC)**

One of the UK's most exciting and successful retailers of music, video and games - we're looking for two lively and experienced Secretaries and an equally talented Receptionist to keep things running smoothly at our West End offices.

For the roles you'll need to be PC literate and have GCSE English and Maths (or equivalent). You'll also have at least two years' experience in the relevant position. If you have experience of WordPro and Lotus 123 you'll be at an advantage but, most importantly of all, you must share our love of popular music.

For the two secretarial roles you'll also need recognised secretarial and typing qualifications, be able to type accurately at 65 wpm and work well to deadlines.

**SECRETARY, OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT  
C. £17,000**

You'll be working as part of a young and friendly team in the hectic core department of HMV. As well as supporting the stores and dealing with customer enquiries, you'll provide administrative and secretarial support to the Divisional and Regional Managers and 4 Department. It's a fast-moving role which involves everything from taking telephone calls and organising meetings to maintaining an effective filing system and liaising with other members of the Department and Head Office. Ref: LM01

**SECRETARY TO MAINTENANCE MANAGER  
C. £17,000**

This is a busy role which will require a cool head and a calm attitude. You'll work within a Store Development Department, supporting the Maintenance Manager and Store Development team and providing telephone support to more than 100 stores and offices nationwide. As well as operating a PC-based helpdesk system, keeping accurate records and organising the payment of invoices, you'll also handle account queries and liaise with store managers and Head Office Departments. Ref: LM02

**RECEPTIONIST  
C. £14,000**

This is a new position which will suit someone who wants to take on a proactive role. You'll be responsible for our switchboard and reception and provide a professional and high quality service supporting the aims of the Office Services Department. You'll also be maintaining our excellent image and provide occasional administrative assistance to Head Office. Ref: LM03

If you think you fit the bill, please send your CV and covering letter to: L. Moulton, Human Resources Assistant, HMV UK Limited, Film House, 14 Wardour Street, London W1V 4LN. Whichever role you apply for, please remember to quote the appropriate reference.

Closing date: 14th March 1997.

**CHALLENGING POSITION****WEST END SECRETARIES**

Partner's secretary required for small, highly international commercial practice; some legal experience necessary. WPM: 50; salary £18,000. No Agencies. Ref: NE.

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International Leisure & Hospitality  
£24k + Excellent Benefits**

So you are looking for something special, a career not a job, a role which will utilise all your talents and skills? If we present this company's name you would know them immediately and be impressed with the reputation for being a first class employer. If you have an excellent PA background within a Blue Chip environment, 100 wpm shorthand and good Word for Windows, Excel and PowerPoint, call Corina for an immediate interview.

**Senior Secretary  
Global Financial Institution  
£19k + Benefits + On Site Gym!**

Superb opportunity to get involved and organise to your heart's content! Working for a team of International Executives this role can offer you variety and benefits that are hard to beat! If you have good GCSE's, excellent secretarial skills and a steady CV call Anna for an immediate interview.

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Fabulous Temporary to  
Permanent Opportunity  
Up to £15,000 + lots of free  
cake and biscuits!**

We need you if you can answer yes to the following:

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- Can you put people at ease very quickly?
- Can you stay calm when busy consultants are desperate for your help?
- Are you tough enough to shout at suppliers if they are not giving us a good service?

Actually we need a combination of Mrs Doubtfire and Tank Girl! We really are a nice bunch but do need to have a professional, friendly receptionist and secretary with 50 wpm typing. Ideal age will be early 20s and you will need to be well presented and spoken. Interested? Call now for an interview.

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**The STROKE  
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for a busy P.R. Department  
within a charity  
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If you are well organised, have a good command of English, enjoy juggling more than one task at a time, have a good telephone manner and a sense of humour, please apply. Good typing speed, knowledge of Word for Windows 6, Excel, shorthand and/or media all desirable.

Please write enclosing your CV to: Monica Hart, Communications Adviser, The Stroke Association, CHSA House, Whitecourt Street, London EC1V 9JL. Closing date: Wednesday 12th March 1997.

The Stroke Association raises funds for research, prevention, and rehabilitation and community services. Registered Charity No. 211015

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£18,000 + BENS + Bonus West End

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All Star number replies should be addressed to: BOX 100, City Two Times Newspapers, P.O. BOX 3553, Virginia Street, London E1 6SA

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A one-to-one role working for the Head of Global Operations. Excellent secretarial skills including shorthand and Microsoft Office are required to co-ordinate an extremely complex diary and extensive international travel. Financial background preferred but not essential.

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This involved position brings with it a great deal of responsibility, interest and job satisfaction in support to a senior appointed Senior Executive who is Head of the IT Division. An interest in IT and experience of the international banking industry together with strong organisational skills (SPH preferred) are essential and will be fully utilised in this role which will also involve extensive client liaison, and scheduling of complex itineraries and meetings. An ability to prioritise and deliver in a highly pressured and volatile environment is a must! Mid 30's.

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career moves  
PA/SECRETARY  
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Bathurst House, 5-6 Argyle Street, London W1V 1AD.  
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Our client, a leading global investment bank, requires a strong and highly motivated secretary who can cope with the pressures and thrills of a trading environment. Supporting a young successful international team in the developing area of Emerging Markets, your pivotal role will include the organisation of roadshows and complex travel itineraries. Previous team oriented experience in a deadline driven environment and the ability to demonstrate your calm approach to manage conflicting priorities and to show outstanding secretarial skills will prove essential to achieving success in this role.  
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This international private bank requires a graduate-calibre Business Assistant to work for the Director of Corporate Finance. Organising your boss, supervising junior staff and liaising with clients will be integral parts of your role as well as working on your own projects to monitor business information and departmental development.  
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An excellent opportunity to join our team of 80 in Paris from 27 April to 1 May. We are looking for outgoing, presentable people, some fluent in French speakers needed, to assist during this international conference. Travel and accommodation paid. Out! Call Darren Rhodila or Jo at Tel: 0171 408 0425  
TERRY SPELTONS

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Exclusive US Bank requires an exclusive PA. You will report to one of the Bank's senior directors and be directly responsible for his management. You will have prior banking experience and be a graduate-calibre individual. You will have a strong knowledge of W/W, Powerpoint and preferably Excel. You type at 60 wpm, have good shorthand and are cool and organised under pressure. This is a 3-6 month temporary assignment with a view to permanent employment. A good package.  
Call 0171 638 7003  
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We have an exciting and challenging position within this international bank for an experienced and energetic Trade Floor Secretary. You will be responsible for supporting the busy team of Derivatives Traders including extensive travel and meeting arrangements, correspondence, producing reports and telephone liaison. You will be using W/W, Excel and Powerpoint. This is a long term opportunity for the right person - give us a call and further details.  
Call 0171 638 7003  
**TEAM SECRETARY** £17.21,000 + benefits  
CITY  
Dynamic Global Investment Bank requires an effective team player to support 2 Executives in UK. Organisation. An excellent opportunity to utilise your strong secretarial skills and thorough W/W and Powerpoint knowledge (including specialist experience preferred) and grow with the group. A good phone manner is required as there is a lot of phone work. As well as secretarial support you will be involved in organising meetings/roadshows and similar.  
Call 0171 255 5796  
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A polished and professional secretary is needed to support a team in the Unit Trust Pricing area of a renowned British Investment Bank. This would not be a 2nd job (typical 50wpm, W/W required) with loads of initiative who can keep the team on track. You will perform administrative duties as well as provide secretarial support. A great team to work for who regularly need your help! Long term growth prospects are good.  
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41/42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB.  
Tel: 0171 638 7003, Fax: 0171 628 5057

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Would you like to work in one of the most exciting environments in the capital? This is a unique opportunity to work for a Secretariat in a large catering operation that exists within the organisation. Liaising with who and other employees, printing menus as well as sharing responsibility for the smooth running of a very busy office. You need to be self motivated and have plenty of initiative with 2 yrs + secretarial experience and a good knowledge of WordPerfect for Windows. If you are a smartly presented, service orientated 'people person' with confidence and tact and have a good understanding of food and wines then call us now for more details.  
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Juliet Morris, left, presenter of *The House Detectives*, says: "History is not just on your doorstep — it is your doorstep." Bidston, centre, and Preston, right, are two of the locations visited by the time-detectives in the BBC2 series



## History's coming home

Your home may have a remarkable history. Eve-Ann Prentice reports on an intriguing new television series

**M**adness, the Black Death and sexual intrigue are the foundation stones on which Anne and David Tombs's house is built. The tales of woe — which make the worst revealed by a local authority search seem trivial — were uncovered when the Tombses had the medieval building in Ledbury, Hereford and Worcester, investigated.

The family were puzzled because a local guidebook described their large home as a tithe barn, even though it appeared to have been constructed around two large open halls. Delving into the past proved daunting until the Tombses' case was taken up by a team of BBC architectural sleuths as part of a six-part television series. David Austin, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Wales, Lampeter, Mac Dowdy of Cambridge University, and Judith Miller, an interior design historian, have investigated six homes in Britain for the series. *The House Detectives*, which began on BBC2 last night.

The Tombses already knew their house, Abbots Lodge, had been home to local vicars from the early 1800s until the 1960s. The experts went on to prove that the family had been right to question its reputation as an old tithe barn.

In fact, a survey in 1288 by the Bishop of Hereford, known as the *Red Book*, showed that the Lodge had comprised two buildings erect-

ed side by side, one occupied by a vicar and the other by a dean. Further research uncovered a fascinating glimpse of English religious life down the centuries, including details of the less salubrious aspects of some members of the priesthood who lived there.

Juliet Morris, who presents *The House Detectives*, says: "Watch the programmes and you'll be able to unlock the secrets of your own home. Ordinary houses reveal as much about British history and how people lived in the past as grand palaces and castles. The series proves that history is not just on your doorstep — it is your doorstep."

The six homes visited by the time-detectives are in Preston, Lancashire; Bidston Village, in the Wirral, Cheshire; Dunsby, Lincolnshire; Swanage, Dorset; Manningtree, Essex; and Ledbury. The team reveals concealed cellars, blocked-up smugglers' tunnels and a reputed ghost.

Mulberry Cottage in Swanage was thought by its owners to be Georgian, until the sleuths found evidence linking it to the Bronze Age. In Manningtree, two adjoining houses in the High Street were swathed in legends of smugglers, witchcraft and the Spanish Armada and the house detectives had the task of separating fact from fiction.

### WIN A DETECTIVE GUIDE

READERS may have seen the feature in *Weekend* last Saturday on tracing a house's history. Now you can win a copy of the book, *Be Your Own House Detective*, to be published by BBC Books. It accompanies the series and shows how to gather details of your home's history, offering a step-by-step guide.

First, answer the following question (the answer is contained in the article above): Which six places in Britain do *The House Detectives* visit during the BBC2 series? Send answers on postcards to House Detective Offer, Midas Public Relations, 7-8 Kendrick Mews, London SW7 3HG, to arrive by next Wednesday. The first 20 with the correct answer will receive the book, which goes on sale on March 20 at £16.99. Usual *Times* rules apply.

In Ledbury, the Tombses have been inspired to continue research into the lives of the vicars who once occupied their home.

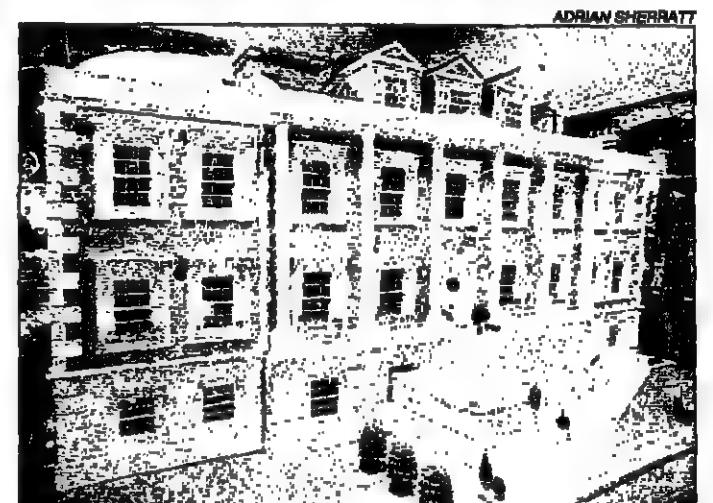
The house detectives offer the following advice for anyone wanting to trace the history of their home:

- Visit your local records office and look at old maps to find out when the house was built and how the area has changed.
- View the property from outside and identify the general style, such as Georgian or Victorian.
- Chimneys are strong clues to the date and general history of a building.
- Compare the front with sides and back. If the style differs, there is a chance that it is an early house masked by later changes.
- Look at the general proportions of the rooms. Low ceilings, for example, can indicate medieval and Renaissance origins.
- Make a plan of the general layout — is it one, unified design or has it evolved?
- Look at doors and windows. Although these are sometimes changed or replaced, there are often tell-tale fragments from earlier features.
- When decorating or renovating, note earlier colour schemes and styles of plasterwork.
- Go to the attic and look at the roof. Many features, such as roof timbers, are likely to be original.

Matthew Bond, page 47

Katherine Bergen reports on a real labour of love

## Prisoner builds a £50,000 mansion



The dolls' house, at the London Toy and Model Museum

**P**aul Wood built the house of his dreams while serving a four-year sentence for fraud in Verne prison, Portland, Dorset. He used his time to construct a 16-room Victorian dolls' house and 230 pieces of furniture, made from 25,000 pieces of wood. His tools were a broken hacksaw blade, a small knife and sandpaper.

"I had been building model boats from kits," he says, "and after seeing a picture of Britannia House and other dolls' houses in a magazine, I set about designing what is now Barnard Hall."

The lavishly detailed house, which Mr Wood named after his girlfriend, took 5,000 hours to complete and has just gone on permanent display at the London Toy Museum. Mr Wood admits he took wood from the prison carpentry class and built the house secretly in his cell. "The main problem I had in the beginning was to obtain all the materials and hide them from the prison authorities due to the size of the project," he says. "I knew that otherwise I would not be allowed to build it as the rules state that no model larger than 18 by 12 inches can be made. Therefore, I designed it in four sections — the main section, two side sections and the steps assembly — each piece to be built separately."

Prison authorities eventually discovered the project, but allowed Mr Wood to continue so long as he paid for the wood. The

model also survived vandalism by another prisoner and was completed in 1990.

The model is more than 3ft high and includes four bedrooms, a music room, drawing room, dining room, nursery, study, kitchen, pantry and servants' quarters. It features hinged shutters, roof tiles, hand-veneered floors, an elaborate 60-step staircase, paneling, marble fireplaces, a clay-

tiled kitchen floor and 40 working lights. Experts say it is worth about £50,000. Mr Wood says the materials cost him £5,000. "But it gave me great pleasure in building, although at times I found it frustrating and never-ending," he says, "and a real sense of achievement when I finally completed it."

● The London Toy and Model Museum, 21-23 Craven Hill, London W2 3EN; 0171-706 8000.



All in good time: about £115,000 is being sought for the Clock House, in the grounds of Chippenham Hall, near Ely

## It's perfect timing for somebody

**CLOCK-WATCHER** needed: maintenance charges at a home for sale in the grounds of Chippenham Hall, near Ely, Cambridgeshire are reduced by £4 a week, provided the owner undertakes clock-winding duty.

The Clock House is part of a listed converted 17th-century coach house and stable block while its reception room houses the clock's pendulum. The house has three bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, study area — and clock room.

About £115,000 is being sought for the property. For more information, phone

### IN THE MARKET

James Bedford at Bedfords, 01284 769999.

#### Sale of the century

A Cheshire woman has decided to move home — as she approaches her 100th birthday. Mary Nolan is selling her five-bedroom period home in Altrincham and intends buying a flat in the area. She wants to use the profit from the house sale to pay for someone to look after her. Mrs Nolan does not want to go into a home "because they're full of old people".

Information: Thornley Groves estate agents, 0161 941 4111.

#### Scotland prices up

House prices in Scotland increased by 3.3 per cent last year and now stand close to

their peak levels of 1994, according to the Royal Bank of Scotland's housing index. The rise suggests that the housing market in Scotland has turned the corner since 1995, but lags behind the UK-wide increase of 8 per cent.

Scotland's failure to match the UK rise was because it escaped the worst of the UK's housing slump — and so had less lost ground to make up, the survey said.

Price rises were driven by the cities, the biggest increases being in Glasgow where prices rose 6 per cent to an average £53,975 during the year.

Edinburgh recorded a 10 per cent rise to £71,148, while in Aberdeen, prices increased by 2.1 per cent to an average of £65,428.

But in Dundee, prices fell by

2 per cent in 1996 to an average of £46,989.

#### Tenants trapped

Men who live in council or housing association properties are increasingly being caught in a poverty trap because of low pay and high rents, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Because people lose benefits when they find a job, most unemployed "social tenants" would effectively keep less than 14 of every £10 they earned in work, the institute says in a report issued last week. Rents had doubled in the past decade while half of male tenants in work earned less than £5 an hour.

"Increasing numbers of tenants in subsidised housing have been caught in a poverty trap, caused by a combination of low wages and rising rents," the report says.

## A show for the buyer

FOR ANYONE contemplating moving house this year, the Homebuyer Show at London Olympia could be the place to visit this weekend. Housebuilders, estate agents, building societies, banks and solicitors will be there to advise. Free seminars include one on "shared ownership explained", which will outline the benefits of buying part-rent, part-buy at a subsidised rate.

New homes by developers, including Barratt, Bryant and Alfred McAlpine, and studio flats, loft conversions and riverside warehouses, will be for sale.

A Greenpeace solar electric kitchen will be washing clothes, cooking meals and making tea.

Admission is free and visitors will be given a comprehensive property guide. The show is open this Friday from 11am to 7pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm. The nearest Tube station is Olympia and there are several car parks nearby.

● Homebuyer Show Hotline, 0901 111595.



Let the sun power it: Greenpeace's solar kitchen

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

## FREE previews of *The English Patient*



Readers of *The Times* can get the hottest cinema ticket of the year FREE and enjoy a private screening of *The English Patient*, starring Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas.

We have a total of 25,000 tickets to give away for the exclusive screenings on Saturday, March 8 — the week before it opens in the UK. And there are 115 cinemas nationwide to choose from.

Nominated for 12 Oscars, the film is directed and scripted by Anthony Minghella (who also directed *Truly, Madly, Deeply*) and is distributed by Buena Vista. Based on the novel by Michael Ondaatje which won the Booker Prize in 1992, *The English Patient* is an epic film of adventure, intrigue, betrayal and love about four strangers whose diverse lives become inextricably connected.

### HOW TO GET YOUR FREE TICKET

Collect the four FREE preview tokens published this week and attach them to the voucher which will appear tomorrow. Present them at one of the cinemas (listed in Monday's newspaper) between 5pm Thursday, March 6 and the close of business on Friday, March 7. Each voucher, with four tokens attached, entitles you to one FREE ticket. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The preview is at approx 3pm on Saturday.

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## RUGBY UNION

# Scotland selectors repay players with rubber stamp

BY MARK SOUSTER

FOR the first time since the five nations' championship last year, Scotland have named an unchanged side, for the match against France in Paris a week on Saturday. Given the comprehensive manner in which Scotland beat Ireland last weekend, the selectors needed little encouragement to rubber stamp the XV, who will face an altogether more demanding task at Parc des Princes, where France will be endeavouring to secure their first grand slam since 1987.

However, the boost that Scotland received in the record victory over Ireland cannot be overestimated, even though, on reflection, several scores went begging, partly because of the conditions, which, according to David Johnston, the assistant coach, prevented Scotland from showing two thirds of their repertoire. That, together with two successive five nations' victories over France, means that they will be less cowed by the prospect of a trip to Paris than they would have had it been to Twickenham.

Although the turnover in personnel has been marked in the past year, there has been, according to Richie Dixon, the coach, a degree of consistency in team selection this season. The concerns have been more to do with positional changes and finding the right blend in midfield. With Alan Tait and Gregor Townsend in the centre, the selectors appear to have achieved that.

Dixon named an unchanged pack after losing the

Calcutta Cup match and was rewarded with a forward display that surpassed expectation, but he will have noted the manner in which France confronted England in the scrums, and he accepted that this will be an area where the relatively inexperienced Scotland front row, which was not entirely convincing against a robust Ireland trio, will be sorely tested.

That aside, Dixon remains

## SCOTLAND

To play France, March 15  
R J S Shepherd (Melrose), A G Stanger (Paisley), A V Tait (Newcastle), G P J Townsend (Northampton), K M Logan (Widnes), C M Chalmers (Melrose), S W Reid (Melrose), J J Smith (Widnes), D G Ellis (Currie), M J Stewart (Northampton/Army), R I Wright (Widnes/Army), captain, G W Wainwright (Widnes), A I Reid (Widnes), I R Smith (Melrose), P Walton (Newcastle), R MacLennan (C Glasgow Fife's F), D W Hodge (Widnes), G Armstrong (Aberdeen), D P Brown (Widnes), D I W Wilson (Bath), S J Brodie (Widnes)

optimistic, pointing out that only three forwards survive from last year, and that it has taken time for them to gel. Glimpses of what Dixon aspires to were evident in the matches against Wales and England, but fell into place against Ireland, who, he said, had "expected to tear us apart up front, but found we turned the tables on them."

As for France, Dixon said: "They are a bit of a Jekyll and Hyde team. They changed their pattern of play when they went 20-6 down against England. They started to play the same game as ourselves, namely taking the game up

through the forwards and mini rucks. France are dangerous when they flow and go.

"There is no team like them when they are playing with confidence, but we have a core of players who played against France in the past two five nations' matches and the World Cup game in Pretoria."

The Scotland v France games have produced fast exciting rugby in the past. It was a superb match last season because France did not try to close the game down after we blitzed them in the opening 20 minutes."

Abdelatif Benazzi, the France captain and blind-side flanker, could miss the match, having sustained a rib injury against England last Saturday. He has been unable to train this week with Agen, his club, and faces a race against time to be fit. With Fabien Pelous, the Dax No.8, also doubtful with an injured right hip, France may have to make significant changes to their back row.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, yesterday blamed club rivalry for the number of injuries to the national team that are hindering preparations for the match against England in Cardiff on March 15. Wales have eight players needing treatment, which has forced Bowring to delay naming his team until next week. It had been due to be announced tomorrow. "I blame the intensity of the league programme and the tribalism that exists in the game in Wales," Bowring said.



Action replay: Elliott and Prior close in on Johnsen in the penalty incident that turned the spotlight on the referee at Stamford Bridge

## FA ready to replace penalty row referee

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE Football Association yesterday said that it would replace Mike Reed, the referee involved in the penalty controversy at Stamford Bridge last week, for the FA Carling Premiership game between Chelsea and Leicester City on April 19 if it is asked to do so by police.

There are renewed fears for Reed's safety after his decision to award Chelsea the decisive penalty during the FA Cup fifth-round replay against Leicester.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman,

said: "We have had no formal request from the police but, should we have one, we would obviously pay heed to any request regarding the safety aspect of things. If the police asked us to change the match official, it would be likely that we would pay heed to this request."

Reed outraged Leicester supporters by awarding a penalty to Chelsea, converted by Frank Leboeuf, their French defender, three minutes before the end of extra time. Even neutral observers were surprised at the decision, which gave Chelsea a 1-0 victory, with Martin O'Neill, the Leicester

manager, describing the penalty award as a "disgrace". Leicester supporters attacked Reed's car as he returned home to Birmingham.

Police have already spoken to the FA, but a police spokesman said that the discussions had to remain confidential. Part of the area usually allocated to visiting supporters at Stamford Bridge is close to the tunnel used by players and officials, and Reed's safety could be jeopardised.

Leicester have not objected to Reed being in charge of the match. O'Neill said: "It is not our place to make the decision for the authorities. No matter

what our feelings are, we cannot go round picking who is going to referee games."

However, Leicester fans remain outraged. A group of them is using the FA for £140 in damages, plus expenses, because it is claimed that one of their number had to miss two days' work because he was so distressed by Reed's decision.

The incident occurred when Reed, standing five yards away, judged that Erland Johnsen had been fouled as the Leicester defenders, Spencer Prior and Matt Elliott, converged on him as he sprinted into the penalty area.

## Last four go to extremes

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AS THE grass roots of the English game have an opportunity to flex their muscles at the Rugby Football Union's special general meeting in Birmingham on Sunday, it seems appropriate that teams from the country's extremes should contest the semi-finals of the C15 county championship 24 hours earlier.

If Cornwall win their meeting with Cumbria at Camborne, their enthusiastic followers can recreate the invasion of Twickenham, on April 19, that was so endearing a feature of their final appearances in 1991 and 1992. On both occasions, crowds of more than 50,000 watched Cornwall as they beat Yorkshire, then lost to Lancashire the next year.

Some 9,000 spectators are expected to pack the ground for Cornwall's first meeting with Cumbria since 1984, though the visitors will have been encouraged by the selection of their captain, Mark Richardson, by the Barbarians for the game against Leicester last month. "It was the greatest thrill of my life and an occasion I'll never forget," Richardson, 36 and an ice cream manufacturer, said.

The chance to play in front of 11,000 at Welford Road was valuable preparation for Richardson, whose county has won the championship only once — as Cumberland back in 1924. He will have seven club colleagues from Asptria alongside him. "Three days earlier, I'd played in front of about 150 for Asptria against Hereford," Richardson said. "So, to find myself in front of thousands was quite something."

Club commitments involving Redruth and Camborne have deprived Cornwall of a substantial contingent of players; instead, they have turned to Launceston, who provide ten of their team including Danny Sloman, at full back the county's leading scorer. Launceston are the leaders of south-west division one and their coach, Micky Stephens, has co-operated with Phil Angove, the Cornwall coach, in preparing for the semi-final on Saturday.

The West Country also stages the second semi-final, Somerset meeting Northumberland at Bridgwater. Somerset's only championship success was in 1923.

Northumberland rely on the Tyndale forwards, six of

whom have been selected, while Alnwick provide the other two members of the pack and three backs. Paul Singleton, the Percy Park full back, has recovered from injury and will hope to go one better than his predecessors of 1995, who reached the final but lost to Warwickshire.

Mark Verner, the Weston-super-Mare back-row forward, leads Somerset, hoping to add to his previous Twickenham appearance — playing for Richmond in the Middlesex sevens. The county have an unblemished record in the championship this season, though they had to work hard to turn an 18-7 deficit against Hampshire into a 21-20 win in the quarter-finals.

Michael Dods, who played on the Scotland wing last season, appears at full back for East Midlands in the annual Mobbs memorial match with the Barbarians at Northampton today.

BARBARIANS: N Gresham (Newbury), K Logan (Widnes and Scotland), L Arthur (Belgrave and Argentina), R Robinson (Bournemouth), D James (Burgess and Waller), A Boyd (Richmond), D Scully (Widnes), M Gutteridge (Widnes and Italy), D West (Leicester), J Lennett (Widnes and England), R Martin (Richmond and Argentina), R Brown (Melrose), S Potts (Carnegie and Argentina), D Eves (Carnegie), J Gardner (Newbury and Italy)

## Hoddle faces dispute with club managers

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GLENN HODDLE may be heading for a confrontation with FA Carling Premiership managers over England's hectic schedule of matches this summer. The announcement this week of a friendly against South Africa at Old Trafford on May 24, and the team's participation in a World Cup dress rehearsal tournament in France, has created a fixture list

in which England will play five games in 18 days this summer, including a vital World Cup qualifier in Poland.

However, Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, and Kenny Dalglish, in charge at Newcastle United, appear ready to withdraw their players from at least some of those games.

"The summer will be a rest for Manchester United players: it has to be," Ferguson said yesterday. "We start training on the fourth of July, while we could be playing our last game on May 28th. I don't know how we can possibly rest players unless we take those five weeks. I have some

players playing on June 8 in World Cup games, which I can't do anything about. It's very difficult."

Ferguson said he has not yet discussed the situation with Hoddle — "it's too far ahead" — but he criticised the summer tournament, which also features Brazil, Italy and France, the hosts. "I once said to Terry Venables that I wouldn't play friendly internationals because I don't see what benefit you get from them," he said.

"You get players withdrawing, you can't play your best team and you get other ideas from playing the ones you wouldn't have picked. I don't see that there's any advancement."

"Over the last few years, we've played an average of 50-odd games a season and this year will not be any different. Add in internationals and friendlies and it's a heck of a strain on players. For young players, it can't be done."

Wolverhampton Wanderers have appointed Dave Merrington, the former Southampton manager, as their new chief scout.

## Little ready to run gauntlet

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

HELL hath no fury like a football supporter scorned, as Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, is likely to discover when he revisits Filbert Street for Villa's FA Carling Premiership fixture against Leicester City tonight. The Leicester fans have long, unforgiving memories and will probably afford Little, the club's former manager, another frosty reception.

Little left Leicester in November 1994, amid much acrimony. It was not so much his departure as the manner of it that so enraged the Filbert Street *cognoscenti*. Little maintained that he had received no overtures from Villa, but was then installed at Villa Park only three days later.

When he returned for a league match, barely a fortnight after transferring his allegiance, supporters held aloft placards labelling him a "Judas" and "Liar". Little said: "It was arguably as hot a reception as anyone has ever had to endure in football. The ferocity of it really surprised me. I still get a bit of stick now and then, but time heals. Most people I have met individually have been fine. I don't think the reception will be as hostile

this time, but I don't think all the Leicester supporters will have forgotten the situation, either."

Little's prime concern this evening is to cement Villa's push for a place in the UEFA Cup next season. They have won three of their past four games, including a 1-0 victory against Liverpool on Sunday, and have climbed to fifth place. "We know it will be difficult against Leicester, for all sorts of reasons, but we've got to get into the top four at some stage if we want to get back into Europe," Little said.

Leicester's fears of relegation appear to have eased, although Marshall and Claridge, their strikers, could miss the game tonight because of injury. Nottingham Forest, Southampton and Middlesbrough, however, remain entrenched in the danger area.

Forest play Sheffield Wednesday at the City Ground, encouraged by their 1-0 win against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Saturday, while, at The Dell, Southampton take on Everton, who have won only once in their previous ten matches and who have only 16 first-team players. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said: "We need new players, we're still looking and I'm hopeful of making at least one new signing before the end of the month."

Middlesbrough's plight at the bottom looks terminal, even though the appeal against their three-point deduction — for the non-appearance against Blackburn Rovers — has yet to be heard. They must beat Derby County at the Riverside Stadium this evening to keep in touch with the pack above. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said: "We've got to start grinding out results."

Little: hostile reception

## EQUESTRIANISM

## King content to head parade on personality

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY KING, the most successful horse trials rider in Britain last year, was named Equestrian Personality of the Year at the Spillers Awards at the Knightbridge Barracks, London, yesterday.

King, the mother of a 14-month-old baby girl, made up for a disappointing Olympic Games in Atlanta with an unprecedented run of success on her return. In less than two months she won the British Open at Gatcombe on her Olympic horse, King William, the Scottish Open and Blenheim on Star Appeal and Blenheim on King Solomon.

King, 35, who is seeking a sponsor after Frizzell ended their two-year contract in December, has her sights set on Badminton in May — the main selection trial for the Open European Championships at Burghley in September. King has only one ride this year, Star Appeal, who gave her an uncharacteristic fall at the first fence last year.

The Horse of the Year prize was awarded to the show-jumper Geoff Billington's Dutch-bred gelding, It's Otto. The 42-year-old Cheshire rider



King: top rider

er's partner has become one of the most popular horses on the world circuit and was the British team's best performer at the Olympics, finishing sixth in the individual contest.

The Spillers Diamond award, a special award this year, went to the British Paralympics team, winners of the gold medal in the Paralympic Games dressage event in Atlanta.

AWARDS: Personality of the Year: Mary King; Horse of the Year: It's Otto; Diamond Award: Geoff Billington's It's Otto; Best Paralympic Team: British Paralympics; Best Paralympic Rider: Geoff Billington; Best Paralympic Horse: It's Otto; Best Paralympic Saddle: L. Equestrian Horse Trials; Best Paralympic Saddle: L. Equestrian Horse Trials

## SPORT IN BRIEF

IT WAS another turbulent day in the life of Sussex County Cricket Club yesterday. Richard Barrow, a member of the club committee, resigned in protest at the departure of five players and a "totally unacceptable" style of management at Hove. In addition, David Smith, the former England and Sussex opening batsman, has backed a scheme put forward by Tony Pigott, another former player, to oust the committee and replace it *en bloc*. Smith said: "Too many people are making excuses and in any other business they wouldn't have survived: they are obviously making mistakes."

**Badminton:** The All England open championships will start next week with the lowest-ever number of British seeds. There are no singles seeds from the home countries, and only three British players — all women — are seeded for the doubles. The favourite for the men's title, and No.1 seed, is Poul-Erik Hoyer, of Denmark, who is seeking his third successive All England title.

**Sailing:** Lars Bergstrom, a leading innovator in the design and invention of yachts, was killed on Sunday when his plane crashed. Bergstrom invented the Windex, a wind indicator that is mounted on a ship's mast. He was 62.

**Rowing:** Oriel will be looking to maintain the headship in the Oxford University Torpids, which start today, although Magdalen are likely to challenge them later in the week. Oriel-Green, the women's head crew, face their biggest challenge from the outset, as St Catherine's, a strong eight, start directly behind them.

**Athletics:** Sonia McGeorge pulled out of the Great Britain team yesterday for the world indoor championships this week. McGeorge, who was scheduled to run in the 3,000 metres, has been forced to withdraw through illness.

**Tennis:** Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, equalled the fastest serve recorded on the men's circuit this season during his victory over Tommy Haas in the first round of the tournament in Scottsdale, Arizona. Philippoussis recorded 134mph, matching the mark of Greg Rusedski, of Britain.

**Golf:** Gordon Sherry, the former British amateur champion, will make his debut on the Challenge Tour in Kenya next week. Sherry failed to gain his card for the European Tour this year through the qualifying school and will be looking for one of 15 places on the circuit for next season that are given to Challenge Tour players.

## BOWLS

## Endurance proving a vital ingredient

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

SUCCESS in bowls should be a reward for skill, not stamina, but the English Women's Indoor Bowling Association (EWIBA) national championships at York, where Sharon Rickman defeated Lynda Jarman 21-19 in the Champion of Champions singles final yesterday, have turned into a test of endurance for competitors who have qualified in more than one event.

Yesterday three of the singles semi-finalists were also engaged in the triples. Rickman and Jarman were required to play four games, which kept them each actively engaged on the green for around 11 hours between 10am and 11.30pm.

Ann Harrison, who was pipped by Jarman, 21-18, in the semi-finals, knew how they felt. On Monday she had toiled for 12 hours, rolling her first wood at 10am, and her last on the stroke of midnight. Yesterday she was let off lightly — just nine hours.

The programme, which was devised years ago and has never been revised, is designed to get through eight events in as many days. Each event takes two days to com-

plete, but the task of getting a quart into a pint pot is achieved by starting a new event before the previous one has finished.

It is only when individuals qualify for more than one event that problems arise, and, such is the skill of the leading contenders, multiple qualification is becoming more common. Players have been penalised for their own success by being asked to play four matches a day, while others have to wait around until their scheduled opponents are available.

The EWIBA officials, who are not unsympathetic, are determined to address the problem. "We are all players ourselves, and have been looking at what has been happening through the eyes of the competitors," Liz Read, a junior vice-president, said.

Margaret Ruff, the England secretary, said: "We have a heavy programme to get through, and have to make sure that we keep to the timings as far as possible. We will be looking very carefully at future scheduling."

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### 10/11 MAN. LTD. 11/5 DRAW PORTO 5/2

Old Trafford, Kick-off 7.30pm, Live on TV.

### CORRECT SCORE

5/1 MAN. LTD.	1-0	5/1 DRAW	1-1
7/1 MAN. LTD.	2-0	18/1 DRAW	2-2
7/1 MAN. LTD.	2-1	12/1 PORTO	2-0
16/1 MAN. LTD.	3-1	40/1 PORTO	3-1

Other scores on request.

### FIRST GOALSCORER

5/1 SOLSKJAER (M)	10/1 BECKHAM (M)
6/1 CANTONA (M)	16/1 KEANE (M)
6/1 JARDEL (P)	20/1 JORGE COSTA (P)
7/1 DOMINGOS (P)	40/1 MAY (M)

Own goals do not count. Other players on request.

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Results, page 44

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CRICKET: NEW ZEALAND SQUARE SERIES WITH 28-RUN VICTORY IN FINAL ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

# England miss out on fond farewell

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN WELLINGTON

WELLINGTON (New Zealand won toss; New Zealand beat England by 28 runs)

IT MIGHT have been fatigue, it might have been the distracting lure of flying home after 14 weeks away. It might even have been an epidemic of headaches from the noisiest day of even this cacophonous, rock'n'roll extravaganza. Whatever was to blame, England could summon neither the concentration nor the resolution for the final obstacle of this tour.

New Zealand won the fifth one-day international, retrieving a share of the series and a measure of pride, because they were the more desperate side. England subsided without drama and will leave this country with slightly less admiration than should have been the case.

By winning the first two games, they at least ensured there was no possibility of this series undermining their emphatic success in the more important cricket of the tour, but by failing to win any of the remaining three, the first of which was tied, they have not only sacrificed cash and kudos but also reaffirmed how much work remains to be done on their limited-overs cricket.

England have batted second in all five of these games and experience has shown that they do not do this well. The damning defeats at the end of the Zimbabwe leg both stemmed from chases that lacked depth and conviction and the same has been true of the final two games here. Yesterday, challenged to make a relatively modest 229, they were never within hailing distance.

They are due a degree of understanding. No set of sportsmen can be on the road for this long, entirely separated from wives, girlfriends and families, without the onset of a demob spirit. It takes a particularly steely brand of professionalism to overcome such basic human frailty. With that said, the fact remains that England have done what they pledged to avoid, allowing the last days of the tour — the part most easily recalled — to be their downfall.

As they have not won an overseas one-day series since they were last here, five winners ago, this must rank as spurning a gift, for they had chances to win each of the last three games. Even without their best one-day combination — this tour party rightly being chosen primarily for Test cricket — they ought to have buried a team of limited talent and self-esteem.

After two months of subservience, however, New Zealand will celebrate a form of redemption in the brand of the game their public prefers. The Basin Reserve was packed to



Thorpe, who made 55, the highest contribution to the England innings, is watched intently by Germou, the wicketkeeper, as he sweeps

capacity by start of play yesterday and the Barmy Army had made a reappearance to add to the musical din that blared after every over. It is a shocking overkill of a perfectly sound commercial idea and, judging by the letters in the New Zealand press, it is alienating many long-standing cricket watchers.

England's final outing in the toothpaste strip, until Dubai in December, offered a compassionate consolation to the Lord Lucan of the tour, Jack Russell. John Crawley was also recalled for Nick Knight, whose broken finger has undergone surgery, but Dominic Cork was still absent, nursing a sore hamstring.

Andy Caddick, who has impressed ever more as a one-day bowler, took the early wicket of Bryan Young and it was a mystery how Nathan Astle survived an hour of hapless flaying against the swinging ball. Survive it he did, going on to score 94 from 129 balls and to earn his third man-of-the-match award in five games.

The symmetry of these matches can sometimes be tedious. New Zealand's 15-over total, for instance, has varied only between 75 and 81 and, on each occasion, they have lost their impetus once Robert Croft has begun to bowl his off breaks. Croft's first over here was a maiden and in his second, a drifting arm ball accounted for Stephen Fleming, who has little idea how to play him.

Chris Cairns, promoted in the order, was quickly caught

## FULL SCORES FROM WELLINGTON

New Zealand won toss

**NEW ZEALAND**  
B A Young c Russell b Caddick 11  
(23min, 23 balls, 1 four)  
N J Astle c Atherton b Caddick 94  
(184min, 129 balls, 10 fours)  
S P Fleming b Croft 17  
(50min, 34 balls, 3 fours)  
C L Cairns c Russell b White 1  
(47min, 3 balls)  
A C Parore b Caddick 18  
(23min, 27 balls, 2 fours)  
C J Harris c Stewart b Gough 36  
(61min, 51 balls, 2 fours)  
\*H K Germou b Caddick 2  
(5min, 6 balls)  
D N Patel not out 16  
(24min, 19 balls, 1 four)  
G R Larsen run out (Croft) 0  
(5min, 1 ball)  
H T Davis not out 7  
(13min, 11 balls)  
Extras (lb 10, w 14, nb 2) 26  
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs, 216min) 229  
G I Alistair did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28 (Astle 8), 2-84 (Patel 39), 3-87 (Astle 41), 4-122 (Astle 57), 5-167 (Fleming 32), 6-200 (Fleming 33), 7-200 (Patel 3), 8-208 (Patel 5)

**ENGLAND**  
\*M A Atherton run out (Fleming) 43  
(105min, 82 balls, 5 fours)  
A J Stewart c Patel b Alistair 18  
(37min, 23 balls, 3 fours)  
N Hussain c Germou b Harris 20  
(87min, 26 balls, 3 fours)  
G P Thorpe c Germou b Larsen 55  
(98min, 82 balls, 3 fours)  
C E W Silverwood b Patel 4  
(17min, 5 balls)  
J P Crawley b Larsen 11  
(16min, 16 balls, 1 four)  
\*R C Russell c Germou b Astle 2  
(8min, 5 balls)  
C White c Germou b Astle 0  
(2min, 2 balls)  
R D B Croft run out (Fleming/Astle) 2  
(14min, 8 balls)  
D Gough c Fleming b Davis 16  
(31min, 21 balls, 1 four)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35 (S 4), 2-41 (S 10), 3-41 (S 10), 4-41 (S 10), 5-41 (S 10), 6-41 (S 10), 7-41 (S 10), 8-41 (S 10)

**BOWLING:** Caddick 10-1-35-3 (S 4), 4-0-25-0, 4-0-14-0, 2-0-14-1; Gough 10-1-48-1 (no 1; 8 fours, 3-0-10-0, 4-1-14-1, 5-0-16-1); White 10-0-44-1 (no 2; 1; 3 fours, 6-0-30-1, 2-0-8-0, 2-0-8-0); Croft 10-1-38-1 (w 2; 2 fours, 5-1-17-1, 5-0-21-0)

Score after 15 overs: 77 for 1.

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## RACING 43

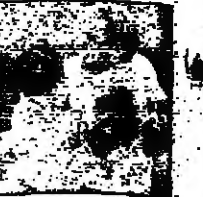
Cheltenham braced for return of Carberry mayhem

## SPORT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 5 1997

## CRICKET 46

Warne and Bevan spin Australia to emphatic win



## Football counts cost of wrong result

After seven weeks of evidence, 47 witnesses, 11 hours bar one minute of deliberation, the eight men and three women of the Winchester jury — the numbers that add up to one side in a football match — admitted that they were beaten. They could not decide whether the accused were guilty or innocent of conspiring to fix matches.

The reputation of English football has been left hanging in limbo by the failure of the jury to come to a verdict in the trial of Regina v Grobbelaar, Segers, Fashanu and Lim.

No verdict from the 11 jurors means no result for the game... and so, where we might have hoped this morning that

we would have known whether or not the values of an FA Carling Premiership match are incorruptible, we cannot now be certain.

It is the worst of all possible outcomes for the national game that, after the summer of 1996, had risen to a higher profile in English society than at any time in history.

Even the World Cup victory of 1966 did not engage the minds of Parliament, prompt the huge backing that has come from business, or induce the prolonged national euphoria that came with the European championship.

Winchester is a marvellously historic city. To reach the Crown Courts, one walks through ancient court-

yards, and then into a complex of courtrooms as modern as any in the land: it is like a fresh hand inside a medieval mailed glove.

And there, since the trial began on January 14, the integrity of English football was questioned on a daily basis. Outside, at least five television crews found a perch overlooking the entrance to the court. Inside, in the corridors outside Court Room No 3, one witnessed people involved in other criminal trials actually walking up to Grobbelaar and Fashanu and asking politely for autographs.

A tranquil city went about its business and, in the dock, the personification of calculated impassiveness, two of this



Rob Hughes on why there were no winners after the collapse of the Winchester trial

country's more famous goalkeepers, a silent gladiator who once scored goals fearlessly for Wimbledon, and a businessman from Malaysia, awaited their fate.

It is estimated to have cost £1½ million of public money, given the two years of police work, the engagement of barristers and Mr Justice Tuckey.

Last Thursday, when the judge began his complex and laborious summing up, I sat in the courtroom studying these four men. Each of them had

origins outside this country: Lim is a Malaysian, Segers is Dutch, Grobbelaar fought in the Rhodesian army, and Fashanu, though a Barnado's boy, was born of a Nigerian father.

Their ordeal was evident as they sat before the court, though at lunchtime they became family men again, and two of them still played the Beautiful Game while out on bail.

What anyone who has any interest or love of football

depends upon is that the game is decided in a fashion that cannot be corrupted. A game without a result is anathema: and yet in football the ruling bodies have concocted a process of deciding stalemates on penalties.

The penalty that is awaiting us now is that we cannot be sure of what we think we believe.

The fact that the Crown Prosecution Service indicated yesterday evening that they may seek a retrial means that, not only is the sport put into continued suspense, but that those who have listened to the prosecution and to the defence are not at liberty to discuss publicly the deeply disturbing exchanges.

Remember, the four men have denied everything and the premise of English justice is that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

How I wish that football itself could today be above suspicion. It is a wonderful game, it has given countless Englishmen, and increasingly, women, lifelong satisfaction. It has rewarded, players with the salaries of film stars, elevated them to a phenomenally high status in society. That attraction must be protected.

At the beginning of his summing-up, Mr Justice Tuckey had chosen a perhaps inappropriate Shakespearian. The judge told the jurors that "a famous football club man-

ager" had once said that football was not a matter of life and death, but that it was more serious than that.

The judge was right to warn his jury that this was and is a serious case for the defendants, serious for football, and serious for all who follow it. But, Mr Tudor, Bill Shankly actually never said all the words as alleged.

It was put to him that football was a matter of life and death. "Nae, son," he responded, "it is more important than that."

Nothing is quite what it seems, nor is likely to seem so innocent in our sporting world again.

Trial abandoned, page 1

## Keane's injury leaves United hoping for best

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALEX FERGUSON has almost run out of superlatives when discussing Roy Keane. Cantona may be "inspirational", Giggs may be "brilliant", but Keane is the first name on any Manchester United team-sheet, Keane is Ferguson's "most important player".

The thought of losing him to injury is enough to have given the United manager an anxious night before his team reacquainted themselves with the European Cup this evening.

It remains the competition that United hanker after the most. Winning league championships has become almost a habit at Old Trafford, even the double is no longer unique, yet Europe's premier club prize has been won just once, in 1968, and this season Ferguson made no secret of the fact that he wanted to win that trophy more than any other.

Indeed, until yesterday, everything appeared to be going to plan. United had run into form, confidence was

bubbling and the thought of meeting FC Porto, perhaps the best team of the Champions' League group stages, in the last eight was not as intimidating as it had been when United toiled through the autumn. Then Keane, the foundation upon which the rest of the United side is built, struggled through a fitness test.

If the Irishman did not fail it exactly, he did not pass it either and the ankle injury that is giving cause for concern remains a threat to his place against Porto. "I hoped he would have done better this morning," Ferguson said after putting Keane through his paces. "He didn't do badly, but it did not go as well as we wanted. We will leave things open and give him every chance tomorrow, but I would say he is doubtful now."

Ronny Johnsen, the versatile Norwegian, is standing by to take his place in a team that Ferguson believes is on a high. "The good thing from our point of view is that our

players seem to get better at this time of the year. We didn't have the best of times when we played in the qualification for this stage, but we have gone on since then. We are four points clear in the league and we have gone 16 Premiership games without losing and that is phenomenal."

For their part, Porto have begun to show signs of frailty. After running away with the Portuguese league and brushing aside AC Milan in the Champions' League, their form has dipped a little, including a 2-2 draw with Estrela Amadora at the weekend in a match they would have won comfortably a month ago. Allegations of match-fixing involving their chairman, Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa, have hardly helped morale either, but they reported no injury worries yesterday and Antonio Oliveira, their coach, professed to having extra motivation to beat the English champions.

"I have read in Portugal that Mr Ferguson thinks Oporto is a little village and that the Portuguese league is not very competitive," Oliveira said, "but as a player and a national coach I have experienced a lot of games and I don't see much difference in standard between the two countries."

"These little things are all ways that people have of trying to upset the opposition. It's all a game of chess, psychology. I will wait tomorrow to show my big move, but



Keane doubtful

I will be fascinated to see how long my little Porto resist the power of mighty Manchester United." The smile that accompanied those sentiments suggested Oliveira expects his team to resist for a very long time indeed.

His assistant, Joaquim Teixeira, was even more forthright. "We have done our homework very carefully. We have a great team and if it clicks, we will surely win."

Both men will place their faith in a line-up that may boast a Slovenian, Zohovic, a Yugoslav, Drulovic, and as many as five Brazilians, including Edmundo in midfield and Jaroslav in front, a striker described by Bobby Robson, the former Porto coach now in charge at Barcelona, as the "best header of a ball in the world."

"If Jaroslav is the biggest threat, then I'm not too worried," Ferguson said earlier in the week. "We've got Gary Pallister to deal with him and if Pally can't deal with him, then nobody can." Such confidence from the United manager can only be reinforced if Keane is declared fit to play.



Lee Germon, right, the New Zealand cricket captain, and Michael Atherton share the spoils in Wellington after the drawn one-day series. Report, page 46

## Villa switch to Ferguson in search for striker

BY DAVID MADDOCK

WITH an eye on the looming transfer deadline, Aston Villa yesterday intensified their search for the forward they believe will strengthen their challenge for a place in the Premiership.

Since arriving at Everton in 1994 for a fee of £4.4 million, Ferguson has managed just 57 appearances in three seasons and scored only 19 goals.

More important, he has frequently failed to tune in to the same wavelength as Joe Royle, his manager.

It is a situation that has offered encouragement to Villa, and the response yesterday from within Goodison Park was not unyielding. Ellis was told that Ferguson will not be allowed to leave immediately, not until the Merseyside club is safe from relegation, but could be sold should survival be assured quickly.

Royle has already allowed one expensive misfit, Andre Kanchelskis, to leave for a substantial fee and, given Ferguson's lack of goals, he may follow the same route again to allow funds to be

released to strengthen the side.

A senior official at the club said last night: "Duncan has had mixed success since arriving at Goodison, and even though he is popular with the supporters, if the fee is right then it might be hard to resist."

Senior figures in the boardroom feel it is time for new faces to be brought in to ensure more goals and a more exciting style of play. Gary Speed, a midfield player, is top scorer this season with only seven goals.

Villa have been anxious for much of the season to bring in a centre forward to complement Dwight Yorke. Little, whose side has failed to do as well as expected in three cup competitions and has slipped too far behind Manchester United to harbour any hopes of winning the FA Carling Premiership, wants to ensure that Villa do at least finish high enough to qualify for a place in the UEFA Cup next season.



Ferguson: target man

He made a bid of £4.5 million for Stan Collymore, the Liverpool forward, last November but that failed because the fee offered was too low. Little has now changed targets, after a series of below par performances by Collymore.

He was able to watch Collymore at close quarters in the match against Liverpool at Villa Park last Sunday, but his interest would appear dead. Collymore has struggled to provide the sort of support for Robbie Fowler at Anfield that would make him the type of partner Yorke requires.

He has failed to settle on Merseyside and his lacklustre display at Villa Park could have ensured that he will become surplus to requirements at Anfield.

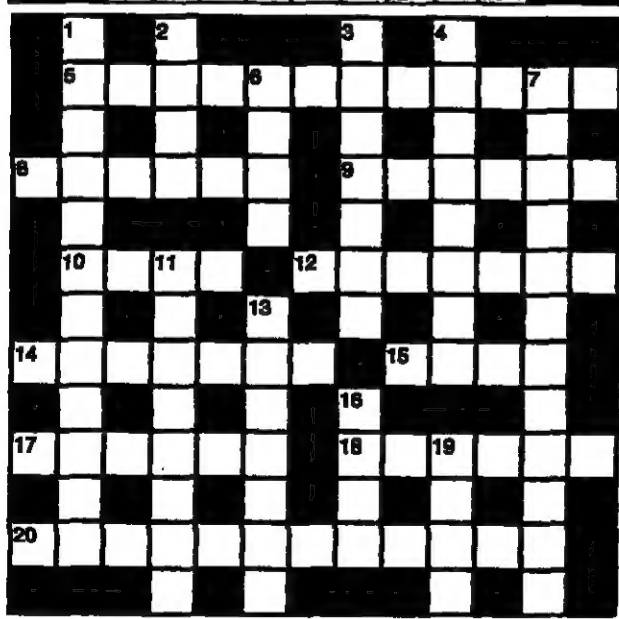
The 1-0 defeat caused severe damage to Liverpool's title chances and afterwards Collymore was involved in a public disagreement with Roy Evans, when he criticised the Liverpool manager for substituting him.

Collymore believes that he has not been given a reasonable opportunity and aired his grievances yesterday. Evans, for his part, expressed his exasperation with the player's inconsistency.

The Liverpool manager hinted strongly yesterday that Collymore would be dropped for the first leg of the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final with Brann Bergen on Thursday night.

"Sometimes it is difficult to understand his motives, but that happens with a lot of players," Evans said.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1033

## ACROSS

- 1 Place limits round (12)
- 8 African country; old coin (6)
- 9 S American blowpipe poison (6)
- 10 Player on North's left (4)
- 12 Schematic drawing (7)
- 14 A mollusc; a sinister power (7)
- 15 Assert as untrue (4)
- 17 Fisherman (6)
- 18 Association: old distance (6)
- 20 Tricky quibbling (12)

## DOWN

- 1 Passive agreement (12)
- 2 Grain husks (4)
- 3 With eg telepathic powers (7)
- 4 Adjourn (parliament) (8)
- 6 Salt Lake state (4)
- 7 Gordon Riots novel (Dickens) (7,5)
- 11 Tobias —, 18C novelist (5)
- 13 Go rotten (7)
- 16 Jam up; footwear (4)
- 19 Similar, related (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1032  
ACROSS: 7 Clue 8 Heraldic 9 Walker 10 Poles 11 Moon 12 Superman 13 Kapskape 17 Vice 18 Slaves 21 Sanly 22 El Dorado 23 Teat  
DOWN: 1 Al Capone 2 Beckon 3 Charisma 4 Drop 5 Elfin 6 File 13 Press box 14 Alcatraz 16 Pavlov 17 Vanity 19 Lulu 20 Shaw

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1028  
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND  
ACROSS: 1 Dawn 3 Benjamin 8 Bilk 9 Penchant 11 Newfangled 14 Insane 15 Scrape 17 Sine qua non 20 Idealist 21 Miss 22 Pub crawl 23 Lean  
DOWN: 1 Debonair 2 Wild West 4 Energy 5 Jockey Club 6 Mean 7 Note 10 Punkin 12 Jaundice 13 Tennyson 16 See-saw 18 Wisp 19 Herb

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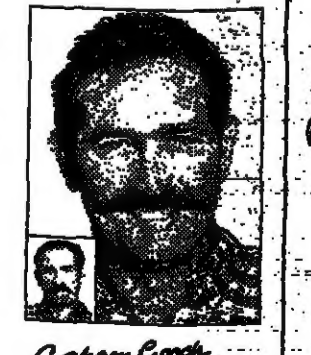
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